

The 50 things app can benefit children in the setting and home learning environment. In addition to supporting and strengthening working with parents, the activity ideas and information make planning easy - **an example of planning opportunities.**

Engaging with nature offers many opportunities for learning linked to developing language and new vocabulary, along with learning about the lives of mini beasts and bugs, their habitat and habits, their lifestyles and life cycles. Children love to explore mini creatures in the world, and we need to give them the opportunity to be curious and ask questions. Bugs may scare you, but they fascinate children!!



Find out what children have already experienced. Build on conversations by extending mini beasts to other animals, where and how they live, what they eat, where they sleep. Find out what pets the children may have, ask parents for photos and compare the pets colour, sounds, characteristics. Layer language and be brave with the words you use and use them consistently e.g. nocturnal, magnifier, chrysalis, antennae.



STORY IDEAS

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Mad about Minibeasts
There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly (book and nursery rhyme)
There's a Spider in the Bath

SONGS TO SING

A Hedgehog is Very Prickly
Incy, Wincy Spider
Tiny Tim (I had a tiny turtle)

Find out some facts about bugs before going on a bug hunt. There are 20,000 different types of insects. Insects have 6 legs, so a spider is not an insect. Spiders are Arachnida and eat insects. You may have a parent or other family member who loves the bug world and be happy to share the children's experiences in the setting. Parents may be willing to bring a pet into the setting.

Environmental education plays a vital role in helping students to understand not only the world around them but also their relationships to other living things. When given opportunities to hold bugs, and other animals, children learn how to be handled and care for them properly. This can be extended to include how we can look after our environment by providing bug houses, growing flowers and other plants/produce, re-cycling, including compost and water. The opportunities are endless and be honest when you don't know something; find out about it together.

Visit the website [50 Things to Do Before You're Five in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough](https://www.50things.org.uk/)