

Creating a Bee-Friendly Garden (2)



Learning Intentions:

- To learn that bees need pollen and nectar to make honey
- To select a variety of bee-friendly plants
- To create a bee-friendly miniature garden
- To observe bees collecting pollen and nectar from flowers

What you will need:

- Photos/videos of bees collecting pollen from flowers
- Jars of honey
- Large garden planter
- General purpose potting compost (4 large bags)
- Bee-friendly plants
- Child friendly gardening tools
- 'The Honey Makers' by Gail Gibbons
- Bee-friendly plants (suggestions)
 - Aromatic herbs: Coriander, mint, lavender, rosemary, sage, marjoram, thyme, chives*
 - Annuals: Marigolds, sunflowers, snapdragons, geraniums, foxgloves ...*

Introduction:

Ask children if they know where honey comes from. Show children pictures of bees collecting pollen from flowers and jars of honey. Have they ever tasted honey? Have a tasting session. Does it taste sweet/sour? Talk about how bees collect pollen and nectar from flowers. Talk about how we can plant flowers to help bees do this very important job. Explain that bees are attracted to brightly coloured flowers (especially blue, yellow, purple and white).

Activity:

Let the children choose a selection of colourful flowers/herbs for the planter. In small groups gather around the planter and have fun planting the flowers to create a beautiful bee garden! Ensure the planter is positioned in a sunny place.

Over coming weeks observe the bees as they visit the garden. Which flowers do they visit the most? Can you see them collecting the pollen and visiting different flowers in turn? Count the number of bees that visit at given times, specific plants etc. Look after the plants, take turns to water etc.

For older pupils: Read 'The Honey Makers' to learn about the life of the honey bee.

Curriculum Links:

EYFS (3-5 yrs)

- Communication and language – *Speaking & listening, following directions*
- Physical development – *Handling garden tools and materials*
- Personal, social and emotional development – *Playing cooperatively, taking turns*
- Literacy – *shows interest in illustrations*
- *Mathematics – Counting*
- Understanding the world – *Plant growth, care for living things*
- Expressive arts and design – *Constructing, use of materials, choosing colour*

KS1 Science (5-7 yrs) Study of plants – teaches scientific methods and skills

