

Creating a Bee-Friendly Garden (1)



Learning Intentions:

- To learn that bees are our friends and are important to our world
- To learn that bees help us to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables
- To learn that bees visit flowers to collect pollen and nectar
- To create a bee-friendly miniature garden

What you will need:

- Photos/videos of bees collecting pollen from flowers
- Large garden planter
- General purpose potting compost (4 large bags)
- Child friendly gardening tools
- Basket of flowers, fruit, vegetables, also food items (eg baked beans, tomato ketchup, jam, honey ...)
- Bee-friendly plants (suggestions)
Aromatic herbs: Coriander, mint, lavender, rosemary, sage, marjoram, thyme, chives
Annuals: Marigolds, sunflowers, snapdragons, geraniums, foxgloves ...

Introduction: Show children a basket full of food produce and explain how, without bees, we wouldn't have all these things to enjoy. Talk about how bees are a very important part of our world. We don't need to be scared of them. They are our friends and they work very hard to help our flowers, fruit and vegetables to grow.

Show children pictures/videos of bees collecting pollen and nectar from flowers. Talk about how we can plant flowers to help bees do this very important job. Explain simply the process of 'pollination' – how bees visit flowers to collect nectar for food and while they are doing this some of the pollen from the flowers sticks to their bodies. When the bees are flying around the garden they spread the pollen onto other flowers ... and this helps more plants to grow ('reproduce'). Explain how bees love flowers which are brightly coloured and have strong fragrance.

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 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.

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

