

Early Years & Foundation Stage

MINIBEASTS



General points about this talk:

This talk generally lasts 30 minutes and will take place in one of our classrooms. Please let us know if any of your children have mobility problems.

Talks are led by the keepers and may vary slightly between different staff members. This talk may involve hands-on contact with the animals so you should discuss with your group how to touch animals and the importance of good hygiene.

The normal meeting point for this talk will be at the Education Meeting Point.

What we will cover in the talk:

This fun, interactive talk takes a look at a few of the different minibeasts we have here at the Park. Minibeasts (or invertebrates) make up 97% of the animal kingdom and are vital for life on Planet Earth. We get up close and personal with them and count up the legs of minibeasts such as snails, beetles, stick insects and even the ones with eight legs!

Their lack of backbone means that they quite often have other structures to support and protect them such as shells or 'exo-skeletons'. We will then take a look at what minibeasts eat, where they live and what they need to live, as well as a simple look at their life cycles. Finally, we may look at the many ways that minibeasts protect themselves including camouflage, colouration and other defences.

Animals we may encounter:

We cannot guarantee which animals you will see during your talk but it is likely that you will meet several of the following. Please note it is unlikely that we will use tarantulas due to the irritant nature of their hair:

Scorpion	Stick insect
Giant African land snail	Tailless whip scorpion
Giant millipedes	Maclay spectre beetle
Madagascar hissing cockroach	



Areas of the Early Learning Goals that this talk addresses:

Communication and Language

ELG 01 Listening and attention: Children listen attentively in a range of situations. They give their attention to what others say and respond appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

ELG 02 Understanding: Children follow instructions involving several ideas or actions. They answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

Physical Development

ELG 04: Children show good control and coordination in large and small movements.

ELG 05 Health and self-care: Children know the importance for good health of physical exercise and a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

ELG 06 Self-confidence and self-awareness: Children are confident to try new activities, and to say why they like some activities more than others.

ELG 07 Managing feelings and behaviour: They work as part of a group or class, and understand and follow rules. They adjust their behaviour to different situations, and take changes of routine in their stride.

Understanding of the World

ELG 14 The world: pupils know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.

