

Parent Guide

How can I use this with my children?

Create your own wildlife paradise in any outdoor space you have available.

How does this help my children's learning?

Building your own minibeast hotel can inspire your child to study their local wildlife. It is also a great way to help them understand the importance of protecting our environment.

Ideas for further learning:

You could observe the different minibeasts which visit the hotel. Why not make a tally chart to show which creatures are the most frequent visitors?



DIY Minibeast Hotel Instructions



You will need:

- space in your outdoor area
- a suitable container (preferably wooden)
- compost
- fertile soil
- pieces of wood (various sizes)
- stones (different sizes and shapes)
- bricks
- old roof tiles
- clay drainage tubes
- fir cones
- dry leaves
- bark
- straw/hay
- dead wood/sticks
- plants that will attract insects

Instructions:

1. Choose an area in your outdoor area for the wooden container and place it on the ground.
2. If the container hasn't already got holes in, make some holes in the bottom to create drainage and let minibeasts crawl in.
3. Fill the container with compost and fertile soil.
4. Use your resources to build various places for minibeasts to live.
5. Woodlice and beetles will like wood/sticks and, if stacked, the minibeasts can crawl through them.
6. Plants will attract the crawling bugs like caterpillars, snails and spiders.
7. Butterflies and bees will like nectar-rich flowering plants.
8. It's up to you how much you put in your bug hotel.
9. Observe the hotel over time and see which minibeasts it attracts.
10. Can you find out which areas of the hotel each kind of minibeast like best?

For an extra challenge, why not find out some facts about the different minibeast that visit your hotel?



We hope the information on our website and resource is useful. However, some ingredients and/or materials used might cause allergic reactions, so if you have any concerns about your own or somebody else's health or wellbeing, always speak to a qualified health professional. Remember, activities listed within the resource should always be supervised by an appropriate adult.

