Welcome to Fisher-Price.com/au

We all know that play is nature’s way of helping children develop and learn essential skills. Through play children build the foundations that will be the underpinning of all their future educational and life experiences. From everyday play, children learn the art of experimentation, problem solving, communication and listening skills. Play is a powerful motivator, encouraging children of all abilities to have a confident and positive approach. Fisher-Price® has brought to life its expertise in child development through play to create this programme of activity modules for use within any pre-school or nursery setting.

Fisher-Price.com/au professional activity support programme

This early years professional support programme has been created to meet the diverse needs of children in pre-school and nursery settings, including those with special educational needs, working under the guidance documents for the Foundation Stage.

Our approach is to provide resources and opportunities that build on and extend children’s knowledge, experiences, interests and skills; developing their self esteem and confidence within a positive framework; creating a ‘can do’ culture through play.

The current online programme consists of eight modules, FREE to download featuring two popular themes, Animals and Transport, to create your own Fisher-Price® playlaughgrow library.

Each of the eight modules contains five key elements:

- **Introduction** – to the Programme
- **Planning Sheet** – outlines a range of development and learning opportunities, plus a step by step guide to core activities relevant to both nursery and pre-school children, supported by guidance on books and songs to complement the main activity
- **Extension Ideas** – a comprehensive range of linked ideas, ideal for enlarging to create a ‘live’ working document for you to add your own ideas
- **Activity Templates** – easily photocopiable for use in a variety of creative ways
- **Take Home Parent Sheet** – we recognise the essential role that parents play in their child’s development, and we’re sure that you are keen to help them with ideas for home. That’s why each module includes an easily photocopiable take home activity sheet including fun play suggestions.

The Modules

The following modules are now available online:

**Animals**
- Zoo
- Under the sea
- Mini Beasts
- Farm Animals

**Transport**
- Bus
- Train
- Boat
- Car

Visit the professional zone at [www.Fisher-Price.com/au](http://www.Fisher-Price.com/au) for further information, to download modules or share your creative play ideas with others.
Theme: Animals   Topic: Mini Beasts

Stepping Stones & Observations & Assessments

EP&S: Have a strong exploratory impulse. Take risks and explore the environment
Show care and concern for living things and the environment

EL&L: Build up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences

M: Show awareness of symmetry,

K&U: Notice and identify simple features. Show an interest in the world in which they live

Ph: Move in a range of ways such as sliding, dancing, slithering, crawling

Engage in activities requiring hand-eye co-ordination

C: Work creatively on a small scale. Use their imagination in art and dance

Nursery:
Children will be motivated by recognition of colour, shape, sounds, movement and texture, eye contact and facial expressions should be a key part of “play” for the very young children.

Resources:
Template sheet for mini-beast puppet & rhyme, white sheet or large sheet of white paper, magnifying glasses, pictures/photographs & information books about mini-beasts.

Main Activity - Mini Beast Hunt

- Talk with the children about what mini-beasts are: small animals that are all around us...spiders, snails, worms, caterpillars, grasshoppers, butterflies etc.
- Talk with the children about which ones they know and can describe, then draw & label their suggestions.
- Show the children images of the mini-beasts that they might find around the grounds taken from magazines, books or the Internet.
- Compare them to those suggested by the children. Talk about how each of the mini-beasts moves to develop vocabulary such as creep/crawl/wiggle/fly/flutter/hop etc.
- Take the children outside with magnifying glasses & a white sheet
- Place the sheet beneath a tree or bush and shake the leaves.
- Observe what drops out onto the white sheet.
- Let the children also search for creatures under fallen logs & stones, leaves, in long grass etc.
- Use this opportunity to talk with children about why it is important to care for these creatures, so not to harm them or move them. Remind children to wash their hands if they touch any animals.
- Once the children have completed their hunt, they can use the template to make a puppet of a mini-beast then hold it as they say the rhyme

Expected Learning:
A willingness to try new experiences, caring for the environment, using talk to predict what might happen, developing an interest in books, developing vocabulary, developing positional language, investigating & observing, showing curiosity, showing an interest in the natural world, identifying simple features, using their senses to explore the world, understanding the importance of washing their hands, using their senses to respond to first hand experiences.

Nursery Specific:
- Use props of spiders & a piece of drainpipe to help the children to learn ‘Incy Wincy Spider’. Show children the hand actions and encourage them to imitate.
- Let children play with the spider & aim it down the drainpipe. Have different lengths & thickness of pipe.
- Create symmetry pictures by folding paper to create a crease down the middle. Children blob paint in a range of colours onto one side, then close up the paper to make a pattern on the other side of the paper. Engage the children in discussion about what the pattern might look like e.g. Butterfly

Expected Learning:
Becoming engaged & involved, imitating, mirroring experimenting with paint, gaining control of their body, acquiring physical skills, enjoying & sharing songs

Grouping of children and staff and other activities, including outdoor:

- Walk around grounds looking for mini beasts, discuss where to find them e.g. under and beneath
- Sequencing/lifestyle puzzles - from caterpillar to butterfly
- Exploring small world play in sand/soil, creating natural habitat, e.g. leaves, stones
- Use magnifying glasses to look at mini beasts and discuss features
- Movement, spiders scuttling, snails sliding, bees dancing, butterflies darting and flitting

Language and questions/group time:
Caterpillar, butterfly, magnifying glasses, eggs, cocoon.
Discuss life cycle of a butterfly and other lifecycles

Books:
The Very Hungry Caterpillar
Snail Trail
The Bad Tempered Ladybird

Songs:
Ladybird, Ladybird Fly Away Home
Incy Wincy Spider
There’s a Worm at the Bottom of the Garden
The Lady who Swallowed a Fly
Use percussion instruments
Here we provide some extension ideas that you may wish to use to explore the topic further under the guidance documents of the Foundation Stage. This section is intended as a WORKING ‘LIVE’ DOCUMENT where you can add your own creative ideas. You might like to share your ideas with others, if so you can submit your extension ideas by visiting the professional zone at www.Fisher-Price.com/au

**Personal, Emotional & Social Development**
- Demonstrate independence in personal hygiene particularly if handling creatures
- All creatures great and small
- Discuss emotions, frightened, scared, excited
- Respect for all creatures
- Show appropriate care and concern for the natural environment
- Respect small creatures by returning all observed mini-beasts back to natural environment

**Language, Communication & Literacy**
- Talking to children as we walk around the grounds or park looking for mini beasts, discuss where to find them, e.g. under, beneath beside*
- Looking at factual books*
- Animal friends (matching activity)
- Sequencing puzzles of butterfly
- Extend language e.g. creeping, wiggly, crawling, symmetrical

**Knowledge & Understanding of the World**
- Habitats of a variety of mini-beasts
- Worm world/ant world using magnifying glasses
- Observing mini beasts in the garden, mature area & park and recording*
- Tank of mini beasts in areas
- Plastic spiders etc. in water tray
- Snail trails
- Life cycles
- Cooking shaped biscuits*
- Life cycle of a frog
- Life cycle of a butterfly
- Tank of tadpoles-watch changes
- Tank of caterpillars-watch changes
- Exploring small world-play in sand & soil, creating natural habitat, e.g. leaves, soil & stones
- Building up honeycomb patterns
- Watch worms in wormery—this is how worms live underground

**Information Technology**
If your setting has taken advantage of e-learning credits and has incorporated computer assisted activities you may wish to:
- Use your listening centre to listen to relevant sounds and song tapes
- Use computer assisted magnifiers

**Physical Development**
- Playtime tape
- Spiders scuttling and keeping still
- Caterpillars undulating & crawling
- Snails inside shells and sliding
- Bees visiting flowers then bee dance
- Butterflies darting and flitting-dancing
- Making honey sandwiches

**Music**

**Songs & Rhymes**
- The Lady who Swallowed a Fly
- Five Little Speckled Frogs
- Five Little Frogs Sitting on a Wall
- Ladybird, Ladybird Fly Away
- A Tiny, Tiny Worm
- There’s a Worm at the Bottom of the Garden
- Incy Wincy Spider
- A Hive for a Honey Bee
- Use a variety percussion instruments

**Creative Development**
- Ladybirds on leaves
- Free painting – exploration of colour
- Hexagon pattern and bees
- Bees from cardboard rolls/stuffed tights
- Caterpillar collage using tissue circles
- Web sewing
- Print frog spawn, paint tadpoles
- Collage frogs
- Concertina frogs
- Snail trails
- Yoghurt pot snails
- Instruments-insect sounds
- Observational drawings

**Stories**
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Snail Trail
- The Snail House
- The Honey Bee and The Robber
- Ladybird Ladybird
- The Very Busy Spider
- The Bad Tempered Ladybird
- The Giant Jam Sandwich

**Mathematics**
- Mini-beast survey-tally results
- Counting legs, feelers etc.
- Snail race game
- Ladybird dominoes
- Incy Wincy Spider game
- Puzzles
- Sizes-large, medium, small, more, less

* Indicates where home links could be particularly helpful
Mini Beasts Poem:
Ants march, Caterpillars creep, Bees buzz, Grasshoppers leap,
Butterflies flap, Snails slide, Spiders weave, Beetles hide.
Worms wiggle, Ladybirds fly, Mini beasts are everywhere,
On the ground and in the sky!
TBC