

Session 2: Nature Hunt

Learning Intentions

- To identify some common native Scottish wildlife (plants and animals)
- To engage sensory skills through touch, sound, and sight
- To improve social and communication skills through teamwork
- To develop confidence and independence in outdoor learning

Resources:

- Printed bingo cards with images
- Leaf/bug identifiers
- Seek by i-naturalist (an app that the adults could have on their devices to check what the creatures you find are called)
- Pens/pencils for marking bingo cards
- Clipboards to lean on
- Magnifying glasses or bug viewers
- Insect nets
- Binoculars
- First-aid kit

Lesson Plan:

Beginning:

Use bingo cards to introduce the animals and plants we *might* see in the space. Can they think where they might find some of the animals? (On the ground, in trees etc)

Go over rules for today's session (if you want to use the rope to mark out an area to contain them in, if they require an adult to put the bugs into the viewfinders, walking in the space, asking an adult to pick leaves etc – whatever rules/boundaries you'd like to set for your learners). Can they think where they might find some of the animals? (On the ground, in trees etc)

Middle:

Ensure children/pairs have their bingo cards and go on the hunt! Children (or adults) can collect leaves, bugs etc as they go. Every child can have a shot of the insect sweeper net if they'd like to!

Encourage senses where possible and if appropriate for each learner: Can you hear...? Does it smell? What does it feel like?

Plenary:

Children can share their bingo cards. Did anyone get a bingo? Share the bug pots to look at. If possible, can they share the most interesting thing they found or their favourite? Encourage confident children to release the bugs in a safe place.

Show of thumbs for how they felt about the lesson.

Extras:

- Use leaves collected for printing in art
- Use collected items for a sensory tray/table
- Carry out nature hunts during different seasons – are the plants and animals different every season?

Evaluation:

The children really enjoyed using all the equipment. They found a variety of creatures and one pupil even managed to catch a bee to study it in the magnified bug pot! Using iNaturalist's 'Seek' helped the teachers with identification and teaching. The lesson became less about scoring off a bingo card and more about using all of the equipment to find the most interesting creature and for this reason the children were very engaged in the lesson.

"I think we need to buy some sweeper nets." – Class Teacher

"I've caught a bee!" – Pupil