

Session 3: Interconnectedness

Learning Intentions

- To recognise some UK animals and plants
- To understand that animals and plants help each other survive
- Show how living things are connected using pictures and movement

Resources:

- Printed image cards of UK animals and plants laminated
- Velcro boards
- Smaller image cards for Velcro board
- Rope/string/wool
- Printed image of simple food web
- Sensory friendly props (some animal teddies, leaves etc – if you have some/want to bring them!)
- Parachute (for game at end)
- First-aid kit

Lesson Plan:

Beginning:

Show picture cards of the animals and plants (and soft toys etc) and ask children if they know what they are. Use BSL to help children learn signs. Can the children explain what some of the animals do? e.g. the bee helps flowers to grow.

Middle:

Part 1

Give each child a card (adults can have one too) then arrange the children in a sitting or standing circle (whichever will work best for your learners).

Pass the rope/string/wool between each connected species i.e. the flower goes to the bee, the caterpillar goes to the leaves etc. A web should form.

Give the children the chance to pull the rope/string/wool – what do they notice? This shows how everything is connected! What would happen if ____ disappears? This should give the children the chance to see how we need every single animal and plant for it all to work. Show the children the simple food web to extend learning.

Part 2

Use Velcro boards so children can use the cards to match up what each animal eats and what might eat it. They could do this individually, in pairs or as a whole group – again, whatever works best for your learners.

Plenary:

Children can select a card, or they can say what animal they are. All children hold on to the parachute and the teacher calls something out like, “I eat leaves” and the children whose animal eats leaves gets to run under the parachute. Other suggestions:

I can fly; I live in the ground; I love flowers; I have 6 legs etc.

Extras:

- Sensory storytelling about the day in the life of... .. a fox; a bee; a rabbit etc.
- Create a food web poster using smaller versions of the cards

Evaluation:

Using the string to help connect the animals helped the children to understand how important each species is in the web, although this required a lot of input from a significant number of adults as some children did not want to hold the rope or the photo card. Explaining about apex predators in this lesson is quite important as some of the children were trying to find an animal that would eat a fox etc, and some children did not understand that some animals eat more than one thing, for example a fox will eat birds as well as rabbits, and berries etc. Some understanding of herbivores, omnivores, carnivores, producers, consumers and decomposers is useful in this lesson.