



Title: Looking after plants and animals

Level: EARLY

Links to Curriculum for Excellence

Experiences/Outcomes	Benchmarks
I am learning about where living things come from and about how they grow, develop and are nurtured. HWB 0-50a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives examples of where living things come from, for example, plants from seeds, fish from eggs. • Explains that living things need food, water and care to grow and survive.

Learning Intentions

- Children develop their understanding of how plants and young animals grow and develop.
- Children understand the concept of life cycle.
- Children understand that all living things need to be nurtured and cared for.

Success criteria

- I know what a living thing is and what it needs such as food, growth.
- I understand that different living things have different needs.
- I understand and can name the life cycles of some plants and animals.
- I am beginning to learn what is the same and what is different about life cycles.
- I understand that some animals rely on a parent/carer for food.
- I am beginning to relate some of this learning to myself and can discuss.

Connecting with home

Information for parents and carers is provided at each Level on the RSHP site. Some of the suggested activities include links with home. Books suggested for use in the centre/school could also be for lending.

Key words/vocabulary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotment • Animal • Birdbox • Farm • Fruit | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garden • Life cycle • Pet • Plants • Vegetable |
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Whenever you use content on a platform like YouTube please cue the film you intend to play in advance, check it is the film you want to view, and skip adverts.

Activities

Learning can be planned or take place in what we might call those spontaneous ‘teachable moments’ when children and educators are playing and chatting, or a particular event happens. Of course, we can create those teachable moments too, and so there are suggestions here about how books, play and other activities can support RSHP learning at Early Level.

Introducing fruit and vegetables	Share a variety of fruit and vegetables – exploring what the children already know and have eaten. Have some fun tasting.
What do plants need?	Use opportunities in the garden, playground or outdoors playing to look at plants and talk about what plants need: air, light, warmth, water and nutrients (healthy soil).
Grow things in your garden	Make posters and displays to help visitors understand what you are growing and how it has grown.
Pot broad beans in jars/life cycle of a plant	Rinse a clean jam jar, leaving the jar wet inside. Put a folded piece of kitchen roll and press it up against the glass. Put a broad bean seed between the kitchen roll and glass and leave on the windowsill. Add a spoonful of water every day, keeping the jar moist but not waterlogged. After a few days the bean should sprout. After a couple of weeks, the seedling can be planted into a 10cm pot of compost or open ground. As the plants get bigger they will need supported with stakes. At about 75cm high snip off the top and wait for your harvest.
Visiting an allotment	Visit a local allotment and find out what grows best where you live and how local owners grow and nurture their produce.
Birdbox	Build and set up a birdbox, feed the birds throughout the year and watch and record which birds come to visit.
Looking after pets at home	Explore what pets children have at home. What are their needs? Who does what to look after them? Create a pet gallery. Have colleagues or children’s family members bring in pets to see and talk about. In sharing, learn the language for adult and baby animals – dog/puppy etc.
The life cycles of animals	A short animation from BBC (duration 1 minute 29) with a focus on the butterfly https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/articles/zttckqt
Songs and rhymes	Old MacDonald Had a Farm... .. Five Little Ducks... Five Little Monkeys... There was an old lady that swallowed a fly... https://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/songs/old-macdonald-had-farm
Animal alphabet	Fill in the alphabet as you go.

Books

Read some of the suggested books, to the group or to individual children to explore the needs of animals, how we care for them, and the important relationships we humans have with our pets.

BOOKS FOR READING TOGETHER OR BORROWING

Please check out the full reading list provided at Early Level. The books listed here provide opportunities to talk about the themes of interest, they could be used with a class or group, reading to pairs or individual children to support and back-up key learning. Parents and carers could be encouraged to read them at home too.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar

Eric Carle (ISBN 0241003008 Board book)

A much-loved classic with its vivid and colourful collage illustrations and its deceptively simple, hopeful story. With its die-cut pages and finger-sized holes to explore, this is a richly satisfying book for children.

I want a pet

Lauren Child (ISBN 9780711213395)

The more desperate for a pet a young narrator becomes, the more outlandish her suggestions. How about a boa constrictor? Why not an octopus? She accepts her family's objections with an open mind, but she isn't cowed. By the end of the story the tenacious hero has found a pet that couldn't possibly bother anyone...

My Cat Mac

Margaret Forrester and Sandra Klaassen (ISBN 0863157475)

When a new family move into Mac the cat's Edinburgh town house, he decides to let them stay. He has always wanted a special friend and the little girl Catriona seems very nice. But when Catriona decides to dress Mac up in doll's clothes and pushes him around in her pram, he is not impressed. A gentle lesson taught about treating a pet with respect and not as a toy or plaything.

Hickory Dickory Dog

Alison Murray (ISBN 0763668265)

Zac and his dog, Rufus, are inseparable. So, when Zac experiences his first day at school, Rufus does too...Wherever Rufus goes, fun and mischief are certain to follow.

What Did I look Like When I Was a Baby?

Author Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross (ISBN 184270 2106)

What did I look like when I was a baby? Michael asks his mum, the baboon asks his mum, and all other animals ask their mums. The answer in each case is amusing and satisfyingly simple. This book explores family traits and genes in a funny and accessible style. Amusing with lovely visual jokes.