



Profiling provision that supports the delivery of RSHP education

RZSS (Edinburgh Zoo & Highland Wildlife Park)

Title of programme: **Cycle of Life (Primary P6 – P7)**

Contact person: Amy Cox

Contact details: education@rzss.org.uk 0131 314 0335

About the programme

RZSS is a wildlife conservation charity working from a basis of scientific knowledge and research. Our aim is to deliver accurate and engaging sessions to connect people to the natural world.

The session uses the unique animal collection to talk about the biology of reproduction and development whilst linking it to humans. The Cycle of Life session begins with a walkabout tour to visit some of the animals. This highlights the differences between males and females, the changes that take place as animals develop sexual maturity, the life cycles of birds and mammals and the differences in family structure and parental care. During the tour, children are challenged to observe particular features of each animal to keep them thoroughly engaged. The language used during the session is scientific and words are used to familiarise children with them which can help to remove the embarrassment.

The session then moves into the Education Centre to re-cap on the learning points already covered and to focus on mate selection, reproduction and birth. This includes still images of an elephant embryo developing in the womb, and a short video of an elephant giving birth. Children are also encouraged to consider the human life cycle and to ask questions. From research carried out on this session, it has been shown that knowledge retention is increased when this subject is talked about in a learning outside of the classroom setting.

The session links with the Curriculum for Excellence specifically in the Science area including:

- SCN 2-14a 'By investigating lifecycles of plants and animals, I can recognise the different stages of their development.'
- SCN 3-14a 'I understand the processes of fertilisation and embryonic development and can discuss possible risks to the embryo.'

Also in Health and Wellbeing:

- HWB 2-50a 'I am able to describe how human life begins and how a baby is born'
- HWB 2-47a 'I recognise that how my body changes can affect how I feel about myself and how I behave'
- HWB 2-48a 'I can describe the physical and emotional changes during puberty, understand why they are taking place and the importance of personal hygiene.'

Links to further information

<https://www.rzss.org.uk/rzss-education/>