

Butterflies, Bees and Ducks

For their Biodiversity topic, Little Steps Nursery in Perth and Kinross decided to find ways to encourage and look after nature in their forest garden. As part of a bug and insect topic, the children raised some caterpillars watching as they hatched and grew into butterflies. Once fully grown, they were released into the garden. In spring, the children noticed nests around the gardens and in the forest and an increased number of birds. They planted wild flowers in the forest garden to attract more bees and butterflies during the summer months and have already started to see more species such as dragonflies, bats and squirrels visiting the gardens.

The nursery also celebrated Bee Day by learning how bees help us and what they produce. Each room was given a wooden bee hotel which they decorated and these were then taken to the forest garden along with a bee bath.

A pond was established in the forest area which has helped to encourage more wildlife to the gardens especially in hot weather. Den areas and leaf piles are also there to encourage wildlife such as hedgehogs.

After a parent visited with ducklings, the nursery was inspired to get their own ducklings which the children have been learning how to take care of. They have taken up residence in part of the forest garden and the children love to visit them each day.

