

## Mini Beasts



We see insects and other small creatures almost every day of our lives. These "mini beasts" are one of the first introductions young children have to the natural world. They come in countless varieties, shapes, colours, patterns and sizes and are celebrated in favourite pre-school nursery rhymes, such as "Incy Wincy Spider", "Ladybird, Ladybird" and "The Ants Go Marching". In this series of Play School, we explore "mini beasts" through craft activities, play, songs and stories. We are also visited in studio by some real-life insects: slaters, snails, worms and even a stick insect!

## Episode 1



### PRESENTERS

Andrew McFarlane – Karen Pang

### PIANIST

Peter Dasent

### STORY

#### **BUTTERFLY, BUTTERFLY**

written & illustrated by Petr Horáček  
Walker Books Australia

### FILM

**Barron Gorge Walk**  
(Play School, ABC)

### ANIMATION

**Incy Wincy Spider**  
(Play School, ABC)

### IDEAS FOR LATER

- Make a garden diorama with green grass, a blue sky & flowers made from patty pans and pipe cleaners. Make some craft bugs to live in your diorama, such as the bottle top bugs described below.
- Take a walk in your garden or a local park and look out for "mini beasts" such as ants, worms, beetles and birds. Take a close look at the mini beasts you find (without touching them) and then draw or paint a picture of them. Tape or staple your pictures together to create a mini beast scrapbook!
- Plant some colourful flowers in your garden or a plant pot. Watch them as they grow. Do they attract any insects?

### SONGS

#### **Spots Are Great**

Composers: Peter Dasent & Mark Barnard  
Publisher: Origin/ Control

#### **Incy Wincy Spider**

Composer: Traditional  
Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **Outside in the Garden**

Composers: Peter Dasent & Judith Keyzer  
Publisher: Origin/Control

#### **Flutter, Flutter Butterfly**

Composer: Lesley Lees  
Publisher: Ward Lock Educational

#### **Would You Like to Be a Tree?**

Composers: Peter Casey & Carissa Campbell

#### **Round and Round the Garden**

Composer: Traditional  
Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing



## MAKE AND DO



### How to Make Bottle Top Bugs

You will need:

- Recycled plastic bottle lids, such as milk or juice bottle lids
- Pipe cleaners
- Safety scissors
- Tape
- A black marker
- Sticker dots
- Cellophane

Cut a few pipe cleaners in half to make legs for your mini beasts.

Tape some of the cut pipe cleaners to the bottom of a plastic bottle lid, so "legs" poke out at either side. Some mini beasts might have more legs than others, for example a spider has eight legs and a ladybird has six.

Use a marker to decorate the top of the bottle lid with spots, stripes or any pattern you like.

Add two sticker dot eyes.

Tape a full length pipe cleaner to the bottom of the lid and bend it to create a handle.

Make a few different mini beasts, each with different features. Some of your mini beasts might have wings, which can be made from a small piece of cellophane, twisted in the middle, and taped to the top of the lid.

Animate your bottle top mini beasts! You might like to use them to tell a story, or sing a nursery rhyme like "Incy Wincy Spider" or "Ladybird, Ladybird".



### How to Make Skittles

You will need:

- Coloured sand – we used red, blue, green, orange and yellow
- Clean, recycled plastic bottles with screw on lids, such as water bottles
- A funnel
- A small plastic ball

Use a funnel to fill each plastic bottle about a third of the way full with a different colour of sand. Screw the lids on tightly.

Take your "skittles" outside, to a garden, park or somewhere with lots of room.

Arrange the skittles close together on the ground.

Stand about 2 metres back from the skittles and aim a small plastic ball in their direction. Your goal is to knock over as many as you can.

This is a fun game to play with a friend or family member. Take turns - whoever knocks over the most skittles, wins!

## Episode 2



### PRESENTERS

Michelle Lim Davidson – Teo Gebert

### PIANIST

Peter Dasent

### TOLD STORY

#### **The Frog Gobbler**

(A story told by the Play School team)

### FILM

#### **Honey Farm**

(Play School, ABC)

### IDEAS FOR LATER

- Play a bug dress-up game with a friend or family member. Use your body, imagination and some simple items from your dress-up box to transform into a bug. For example, put a yellow towel around your shoulders and “buzz” around like a bee, or, get into a sleeping bag and wriggle on the ground like a worm. Your friend or family member has to guess what kind of bug you are.
- Make a paper plate frog. Paint a piece of A4 paper and the bottom of a paper plate green. Once dry, place both hands on the green paper, ask someone to trace around them, and then cut out. Stick the two handprints to the bottom of the paper plate for legs. Add two sticker dot eyes and a long, red, paper tongue.
- Eat some honey on toast. Yum!

### SONGS

#### **Round and Round and Round**

Composer: Colin Buchanan

Publisher: Rondor

#### **Come On And...**

Composer: Louie Suthers

#### **Incy Wincy Spider**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **There Was an Old Woman Who Swallowed a Fly**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **I'm So Hungry**

Composers: Ann North & Martin Welsey-Smith





## MAKE AND DO



### How to Make a Spiny Painting

You will need:

- A round, clean garbage bin lid
- Paper
- Safety scissors
- Three or four colours of paint, we used blue, green, yellow and pink

This activity can get messy, so cover your workspace in some old newspaper or a plastic worksheet and put on an old shirt or painting smock.

Cut a large shape from paper. We cut out a butterfly shape.

Spoon or pour different coloured paint all over the inside of the bin lid.

Spin the bin lid around. As the lid turns, the paint will spread all over, making colourful patterns.

Put the butterfly shape into the bin lid and press down on it with your hands.

Lift up the butterfly to reveal lots of colourful swirls and stripes. Some of the colours may have mixed together to make new colours.



### How to Make Honey Joys

You will need:

- 90g butter
- 1/3 cup castor sugar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 4 cups cornflakes

Makes 24 honey joys.

Preheat oven to 150°C.

Line a 24 cup cupcake or muffin tin with paper patty pan cases.

Melt the butter in a saucepan over medium heat.

Add the sugar and honey to the butter and mix together with a wooden spoon until the sugar dissolves.

Place the cornflakes in a large bowl and pour the honey mixture over the top.

Gently mix together with a wooden spoon, so all of the cornflakes are coated in the honey mixture.

Spoon the honey cornflakes into the patty pan cases.

Bake for 10 mins.

Allow to cool before eating.

## Episode 3



### PRESENTERS

Luke Carroll - Leah Vandenberg

### PIANIST

Peter Dasent

### STORY

**"Slinky Malinki, Open the Door"**

by Lynley Dodd, Puffin Books New Zealand  
1993

### FILM

**Wildlife Montage**

(Play School, ABC)

### IDEAS FOR LATER

- Make a snail from play dough or clay! Roll out a long piece of play dough or clay and twist about three quarters of it into a shell shape. The rest of the play dough can be the head of your snail.
- Make some bugs from egg carton cells. You might like to make a caterpillar with three or four egg carton cells for a wiggly body, or an ant with just one egg carton cell for a small body. Paint your egg carton bugs and stick in short lengths of pipe cleaner for antennae.

### SONGS

#### **Mrs Snail**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **There's a Worm at the Bottom of My Garden**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **I Have Made a Pretty Nest**

Composer: Ann Elliot

Publisher: Steiner & Bell

#### **I Can Fly**

Composer: Lucille Wood

Publisher: Chambers Harrap

#### **Who's That Tapping at the Window?**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **Go, Go, Goanna**

Composer: Colin Buchanan

Publisher: Universal

#### **Incy, Wincy Spider**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **The Bee**

Composer: Hylas Irish & Aleta Rossiter



## MAKE AND DO



### How to Make a Birds' Nest with Hatching Eggs

You will need:

- A small basket
- Craft bits and pieces, such as wool, ribbon, torn coloured paper or crepe paper and craft feathers
- A paper plate
- Coloured A4 paper
- Safety scissors
- Sticker dots
- A peg
- Craft feathers
- Tape
- Thin, white A4 cardboard
- A marker

To make a nest, fill the basket with craft bits and pieces.

To make a mother bird, fold a paper plate in half for a body. For wings, fold a piece of A4 paper horizontally, concertina style (like a fan). Make a hole through the middle of the paper plate, where the wings should be, and push the folded paper through. Fan out each side. Add two sticker dot eyes and clip on a peg for a beak. Decorate with craft feathers.

To make two hatching eggs, draw two big egg shapes on thin, white A4 cardboard and cut out. Fold each egg in half so, when the eggs are ready to "hatch", you can fold one half down to reveal your chicks!

Draw the head and body of two small chicks on coloured paper. The chicks should be small enough to fit inside the eggs. Decorate the chicks with sticker dot eyes, beaks and some craft feathers. Tape the chicks to the back of the folded eggs, so their heads poke up out the top of each half. Unfold the eggs to hide the chicks.

Put your unhatched eggs and mother bird into their nest. When it's time for the eggs to hatch, bend each egg in half, at the fold, to reveal your chicks!



## How to Make a "Buggy" Picture

You will need:

- Bits and pieces collected from your garden, such as stones, twigs, seed pods, fallen flowers and leaves
- A small patch of dirt, such as an empty garden bed or an empty pot plant
- Gardening gloves

Put on a pair of gardening gloves and arrange the bits and pieces collected from your garden in a small patch of dirt to create different bug pictures. For example, line up stones in a row to create a long body for a worm, or create a stick insect with a body and six legs from twigs. You might also like to make a face from your bits and pieces, like the one pictured above.

Remember to wash your hands well once you have finished.



## Episode 4



### PRESENTERS

Leah Vandenberg – Teo Gebert

### PIANIST

Peter Dasent

### TOLD STORY

#### ***The Inchworm and the Grasshopper***

(A story told by the Play School team)

### FILM

#### ***Picnic at Torrens River***

(Play School, ABC)

### IDEAS FOR LATER

- Make a cardboard roll rocket! To make the nose of your rocket, cut a small circle from cardboard and make a slit in the middle, so you can roll the circle into a cone shape. Secure the cone with tape and stick it to the top of the cardboard roll. Stick red streamers, or thin strips of crepe paper or cellophane, to the other end of the cardboard roll for flames.
- Go on a picnic and look out for different types of birds.
- Move like different animals - jump like a frog, slither like a snake and creep like a mouse!

### SONGS

#### ***Making Things***

Composers: Scott Aplin & Phil Barton

Publisher: ABC Music Publishing

#### ***Rocket Song***

Composer: Peter Dasent & Mark Barnard

Publisher: Origin/Control

#### ***The Ants Go Marching***

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### ***Everybody Likes Fruit and Vegetables***

Composer: Jay Mankita

Publisher: Dreams on Tape Music

#### ***Jump and Jiggle***

Composers: Edna G. Buttolph & Evelyn Beyer

Publisher: Willis Music Co.

#### ***Incy Wincy Spider***

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### ***Inchworm***

Composer: Frank Loesser

Publisher: Kobalt Music Publishing

#### ***Two Little Apples***

Composers: M. Miller & Paula L. Zajan

Publisher: EMI Music

## MAKE AND DO



### How to Make Space Bugs

You will need:

- A collection of safe, unbreakable items from your kitchen, such as a small sieve, an egg beater, a small colander, a mini fry pan and a wooden spoon
- Pipe cleaners
- Aluminium foil

Create bugs using safe, simple kitchen objects. Use pipe cleaners to attach different objects, or to create antennae or feelers.

For example, make a "Zip, Zap, Boing Bug" by attaching two pipe cleaner antennae to the front of a sieve; an egg beater with pipe cleaner antennae tied around the middle could be a "Spin, Dive, Egg Beetle"; and, a colander with two pipe cleaner antennae, each with a small piece of foil scrunched onto the end for an eye, could be a "Colander Critter".

Use your imagination to create your own exciting space bugs!

### How to Make Picnic Creatures

You will need:

- Small zip lock bags
- Fruit and vegetables, small or cut into bite size pieces, such as blueberries, melon balls, cherry tomatoes or chopped celery
- Pegs
- Pipe cleaners

Fill a zip lock bag about a third of the way full with fruit or vegetables.

Squeeze the air out of the bag and zip it up.

Scrunch the bag in the middle, pushing fruit to either side, to create a butterfly shape. Peg the bag in place.

Tie pipe cleaner antennae around the peg.

## Episode 5



### PRESENTERS

Karen Pang & Teo Gebert

### PIANIST

Peter Dasent

### TOLD STORY

#### **The Mini Beast Ball**

(A story told by the Play School team)

### FILM

#### **Tulip Time**

(Play School, ABC)

### IDEAS FOR LATER

- Make a night-time garden collage by pasting newspaper, magazine & coloured paper cut-outs onto a piece of black cardboard or paper. Paste on a moon, trees, flowers, bushes or anything you like. You might like to add some night-time mini beasts, such as an owl or a firefly.
- Make a peg firefly or dragonfly by twisting a small square of cellophane or tissue paper in the middle and taping it to a peg for wings.
- Make up a dance to a piece of music you like.

### SONGS

#### **Tiptoe Through the Tulips**

Composers: Al Dubin & Joe Burke

#### **This Little Light of Mine**

Composer: Harry Dixon Loes

#### **Incy Wincy Spider**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing

#### **Spots Are Great**

Composers: Peter Dasent & Mark Barnard

Publisher: Origin/Control

#### **Heel and Toe Polka**

Composer: Traditional

Publisher: Origin/ABC Music Publishing



## MAKE AND DO



### How to Make a Garden Painting

You will need:

- A large piece of calico
- Thin A4 cardboard
- A pencil
- Safety scissors
- Paint

This activity can get messy, so cover your workspace in some old newspaper or a plastic worksheet, put on an old shirt or painting smock and keep a bucket of warm soapy water and some old towels on hand.

Draw a flower shape on a piece of cardboard and cut out to make a stencil, with a flower shaped hole in the middle. We made a tulip stencil.

Lay the calico down flat on your workspace. Place the flower stencil onto the calico and paint over the surface in any colour you like. You might like to use green paint for the leaves and stem of your flower, and a different colour for the petals. Remove the stencil to reveal a colourful flower.

Use the same stencil to paint a few more flowers on the calico.

To make a bug stencil, draw a round shape on a piece of cardboard and cut out.

Place the stencil on the calico and paint over the surface. Remove the stencil to reveal a round body for a bug.

Dip a finger into a different colour of paint and decorate your bug with spots, stripes, legs and antennae. You might like to paint a red ladybird with black spots or a yellow bee with black stripes.

Hang your garden painting out to dry.



### How to Make a Lantern

You will need:

- A paper gift bag with handles
- Safety scissors
- Coloured cellophane
- Tape
- Recycled newspaper
- A small LED torch

Cut a shape, such as a circle, square, or triangle, from one face of the paper gift bag.

Cut the same shape from cellophane, but make it slightly larger than the shape you have cut from the paper bag. Tape the cellophane shape over the shape in the paper bag.

Open up the bag and sit it upright. Scrunch up some old newspaper and put it in the bottom of the bag, to weigh it down.

Stick the torch to the back of the paper bag, so it will shine through the cellophane when turned on.

Use the handles of the gift bag to hang up your lantern.