Children bond with snails as they understand more about their lives.

My Special Friend 1



Keywords **story • emergent curriculum • recall and ordering • indoors**

1. Story time: My Special Friend

Use the story "*M*y Special Friend/ Ħbieb tal-Qalb" (Downloadable Materials) as the starting point. Decide how you'll read it and encourage discussion of key themes while learning about snails. Children should understand:

- Sleeping snails must not be disturbed. They sleep when the weather isn't right for them.
- A snail's body must stay wet to breathe through its skin.
- When sleeping, a snail seals itself inside its shell to stay moist and safe.
- Pulling a snail off a surface can break this seal, causing it to dry out and die.
- Snails leave a trail to help them move and find their way back.
- Moving dries them out, so they come out at night or in wet weather.

Important! Always observe snails outdoors. Don't bring them into the classroom, animals s houldn't be handled for our convenience!

2. Extend learning through sequencing and creative activities:

You can use storyboards or "*Story cards*" (Downloadable Materials) to retell the story in sequence. While doing this, act it out, draw scenes, or create character puppets to bring the story to life. Allow the children to dramatize the story using the materials you have created.

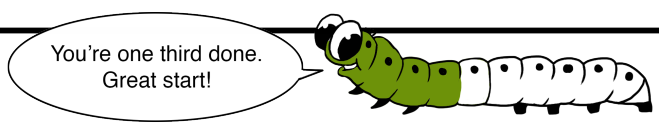
Optional extra activities:

- Maze and follow the path ("*Snail finds shade*" – (Downloadable Materials)
- Collect leaves to trace the letter S
- Go on a letter hunt in the garden (e.g., sun, sky, snail, soil, seeds, sparrow)

What if?...

If children ask about snail pellets or others:

- Snails help break down dead plants, enriching the soil.
- Snail pellets are banned for home use; they kill snails slowly and cruelly.



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- Use crushed eggshells around plants to keep snails away, they won't cross them.

Send photos of

☐ Children listening to the story

☐ Any dramatization/ story sequence/ artwork related to the story

Resources & Equipment Needed

- Story cards;
- Any props or materials you create;
- Art and craft supplies of your choice;

