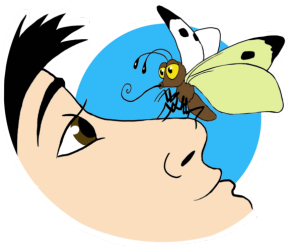
Nature links: Discovering relationships in nature. The aim is to put children directly into contact with nature for them to...

Garden Friends 3



Keywords **nature observation • creative display • indoors • outdoors**

1. Start with a Discussion
Gather the children in a circle, indoors or outdoors. Ask what they expect to find in the garden or soil patch to focus their attention on relationships in nature. You may also use the "*Visuals photos*" and the "*Visuals presentation*" from the Downloadable Materials to start the conversation.

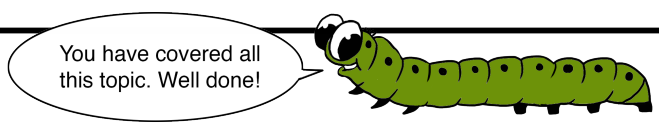
2. Explore Outdoors
Use the school's soil patch, garden, or planters. If these are not available, organise an outing and turn it into a Dinja Waħda morning. Give children magnifying glasses to observe nature more closely.

3. Look for Nature Links
Encourage children to notice how plants and animals interact. Examples include:

- An ant climbing a tree – it needs what the tree provides;
- An ant carrying a seed – the plant depends on ants to bury seeds;
- Ants following each other – sisters helping each other;
- A bird singing – sending messages to other birds;
- A butterfly or bee on a flower – taking nectar while pollinating;
- A beetle among dry leaves – eating leaves to enrich the soil;
- A spider's web – catching insects and keeping balance in nature;
- A bird pecking among leaves – eating insects and cleaning parasites;
- Aphids sucking sap – feeding while becoming part of food chains;

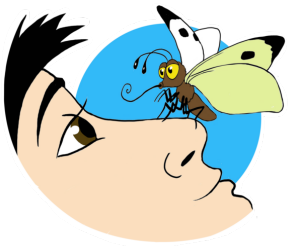
4. Record and Represent
Decide how children will show one of the links they found. Provide materials for drawings, cut-outs, or models. Take photos of the links they discover, letting children suggest what to photograph.

Important! When exploring, avoid damaging nature. Stick to paths and keep voices low.



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5. Reflect Together
After the walk, sit with the children and talk about what they observed. Ask questions like:

“Why do you think the ant was carrying that seed?”, “How does the butterfly help the flower?”

6. Create a Class Display
Make a display of the children’s nature links and choose a title together. Options include:

- A “Nature Journal” with photos, drawings, and descriptions;
- A large class mural showing the different links observed;

Extra Activities

Literacy: Read picture books that explore nature relationships, e.g. The Very Busy Spider or The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle (a dramatized version is available on Youtube);

Send photos of

☐ Children looking for nature links

☐ The nature links display

Resources & Equipment Needed

- Materials for creating a display of observations;
- Art and craft supplies of your choice;

