



Children focus on snail trails to help them understand more about snails.

My Special Friend 3



Keywords snail trail • school grounds • physical activity

- 1 On a rainy day, in a soil area in the school, even among pots and planters, take the children out first thing in the morning or after the rain and look for snails. To discourage children from picking them up, ask questions about how the snails move, about why they have feelers and how these feelers are sensitive to touch. The snails will retreat into their shells if touched. Use this to help children see how snails can feel afraid, like us.
- 2 Look for snail trails. Why do the children think the lines curve and twist this way and that? Lead them to see how snails are feeling the ground as they walk. Question what they are looking for and elicit "food".
- 3 Go more than once to the snail spot. Leave a small pile of vegetable matter, like tomatoes or lettuce leaves. Look for snail trails leading to and away from the pile, even when it is not a rainy day. Where do the snails go? Remind children that snails must avoid the sun but if there are trails, who left them? Help them realise that snails are active at night.
- 4 Consolidate learning through role play: find a spot where the children can walk like snails, inventing their own movements. You may prepare chalk squiggles on the ground beforehand, for the children to follow as they train gross motor skills.

Do this activity after a rain shower or early in the day, as otherwise you will not see snail trails.

Use the Dinja Waħda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of

- ☐ children looking for snail trails
- ☐ children making snail movements

