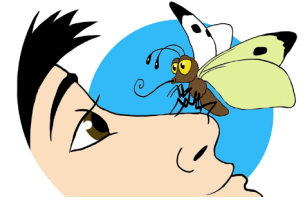




Children learn to look at
animals as their friends



Animals and Me 1



Keywords storytelling • school grounds • crafts and creativity

- 1 Set up your classroom for storytelling. Have some tables with different materials on them. Dress up a twig as a boy or girl with pieces of cloth and eyes. Introduce your character as a new child at school and whose name is Beano (or children invent one). Allow time for the children to invent a background to the child. Now tell the story *Beano's Friends* from the **Resource File**, dramatising emotions and movements with the children as you go along. You may use the narration and illustrations in the Materials tab to create story character/visual props. To do this, print, cut out, stick onto stiff backing and use kebab sticks to hold them up.
- 2 Take the children on a tour of the school grounds and look for animals. When you meet a new animal, ask: "I wonder why..?" questions about any particular feature or behaviour you observe. Get the children thinking about the animal and bonding with it. Stimulate their curiosity about the animal and get them to look at it as a friend. Ask them what Beano would say and what the animal would reply. Some children will probably ask to handle animals, but show them that we can easily hurt or scare them. You can link with pets that do like to be handled, like cats and dogs.
- 3 Back in class, the children create their own story animal characters with craft materials you have prepared. Remind them what animals you met and let them create. They can add themselves as part of the picture.
- 4 Create a display of the animal friends the children made, around either individual photos of the children or a group class photo. Add the title *Me and My Animal Friends!* to stress the link between the animals and the children.

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

Send photos of

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| ☐ children dramatising story | ☐ children drawing/making animal friends |
| ☐ children looking for animal friends | ☐ final display |

