



Children learn to respect all creatures, however small, as they observe the fascinating way of ants.

Nature and Me

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Keywords exploration • art and craft • story-telling • physical activity

- 1 Take children to a place in the school grounds where you know there are ants. See if they find some ants on their own and let them watch, discover and talk about what they see. Prompt observation with comments like: "I wonder what happens when I put crumbs near them." Place crumbs along their route and watch the ants carry food. See how they touch each other with their feelers. Make links with topics such as friendship, brothers and sisters (ants on the ground are all sisters), good food and bad food (ants will not be interested in artificial sweets but will carry off bread crumbs).
- 2 Carry art and craft materials with you to the ground and find a nice spot to do outdoor crafts. Wear the ant mask you have made for yourself from the design in the **Resource File**. Let children comment and react, see if they want to make their own ant mask. Provide materials for them to create their own mask from what they observed.
- 3 Wearing the masks, children move on to physical activity. Use ant movements to inspire the way you move. Do individual and group coordination movements, such as walking in a line, touching hands and shoulders, passing a ball along a line, carrying something together in groups without dropping it (like ants) and so on.
- 4 Back in class, read story *Nemla Wara l-Oħra / Ants in a Row* (**Resource File**) about a group of ants whose home is destroyed by fire. You may use the visuals in the **Resource File** to create characters and other props as you read. Print, cut out, stick to stiff backing and use kebab sticks to hold them up as you dramatise story together.
- 5 While reading, allow concepts to grow in children's mind and follow up on conversations and activities that emerge. Make sure that showing care for living things comes across, no matter how small creatures may be.
- 6 After reading, let children represent story by drawing, creating, using letters and any material you wish to develop at the time. You can display children's work in a frieze with a title about ants that you make together.

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

Send photos of

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| ☐ children observing ants | ☐ children dramatising ant story |
| ☐ children making ant masks | ☐ children participating in story follow-up |
| ☐ children doing physical ant-like activity | |

