

Starters for Science are 4 activities that parents can use at home to help children develop their science alongside the key learning and vocabulary children are using at school. The activities are easy to resource and provide children with the stimulus to learn and talk about their science topic. Encourage children to use the correct vocabulary as they talk about what they are doing and finding out. Don't forget to share your work on social media

#ScienceFromHome

Key Learning:

Most living things live in a habitat. A habitat is described as a natural home or environment of plants and animals. Examples of habitats are oceans, forests, deserts and grassland.

Some habitats are very small and are called micro-habitats. These include under rocks or logs, in leaf litter or a pond. These are within larger habitats. For example you might find a log pile in a forest.

The habitat a living thing occupies will provide the basic needs the plant or animal need to survive. It is suited to it. A variety of plants and animals may live in the same habitat. They depend on each other to help provide the basic needs each animal or plant needs to survive (food, water and shelter).

Animals and plants form food chains which shows how food is obtained. For example a shrimp eats algae (a plant), a large fish eats a shrimp, a seal eats the large fish and a whale eats the seal. These living things would live in the same habitat.

Objects can be sorted as living, dead and never been alive. Wood is dead but rock has never been alive.

Vocabulary:

living
alive
dead
never been alive
living things
habitats (plus names of examples e.g. woodland, ocean, garden)
micro-habitats (plus names of examples e.g. log pile, pond, leaf litter)
depend on
suited
basic needs: food, water, shelter
food chains

Go on a treasure hunt

Walk around your home and/or the local area. Look for things that are alive. You could also collect some objects that were once alive and have never been alive in a small bag or an egg box. Once you finish your hunt, can you sort your objects into two groups? <https://www.stem.org.uk/rx33gh>

Creepy crawly palace

Create a palace suitable for a minibeast! Discover how to make your micro-habitat here http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_minibeast_palace.pdf. Keep checking to see if anything moves in.

Food chains

Download the Food Chain Cards from here <https://www.stem.org.uk/rx33c9>. Can you order 5 or 6 cards so they make a food chain? Can you make another food chain with different cards?

Habitat advert

Choose a habitat and list the animals that live there. Think about how the habitat suits their needs. Create an estate agent's For Sale advert for the habitat. You'll need to choose one of the animals suited to that habitat to aim your advert at. Remember to explain why the habitat would be perfect for them.