

MUDDY FEET

WILD PLACES, HAPPY FACES!

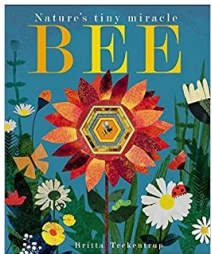
Welcome to our Muddy Feet Resource Pack! Each week we will be releasing a 'virtual' Muddy Feet session via our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/MuddyFeetOutdoorPlaygroup

We will introduce the story and theme for the week and then have a weekly resource pack available with a range of suggested outdoor activities that you can have a go at in your back garden or any outdoor space. Our 'virtual' session is pre-recorded so can be accessed at any time.

Muddy Feet Resource Pack

Week 8



Story – 'Bee: Nature's Tiny Miracle' by Britta Teckentrup & Patricia Hegarty

Theme – Bees

This week's story is 'Bee: Nature's Tiny Miracle.' You can hear and join in with the story on our Facebook page through our 'virtual' session this week.

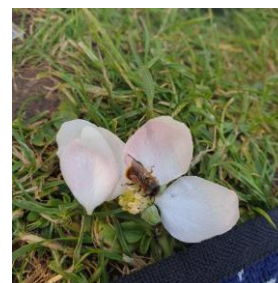
Each suggested activity is described below, including all the resources you will need – most of these are things you will have around the house/garden. All the activities can be adapted for both younger and older children and encourage free play, exploration and creativity. We have designed the activities to be very child-led and open-ended, but there are many curriculum links too!

We have broken the activities down into five days, but this is just a suggestion, feel free to dip in and out of the activities and see where your children take them!

We'd love to hear how you get on with the activities, so please feel free to share any pictures/comments to our FB page or tag us on Instagram

@muddyfeetoutdoors #muddyfeetoutdoors

Day 1



You will need:	
Bee fact cards	
See Like a Bee Hunt Sheet	
Bee Identification sheet	
Bee template / paper	
Stick/lollipop stick	
Glue/sellotape/double sided tape	
Plastic bowls & powders (e.g. sugar/sand)	

🐝 **Bee Fact Trail** – print out the Bee Fact Cards with fun facts about bees! Bees are fascinating creatures! Use these to set up a trail or hunt in your outdoor space and learn some interesting facts!

🐝 **Bee research** – Use the blank bee templates to add your own Bee Facts – what can you find out about these amazing creatures? Our favourite new discovery is that bees have 'pollen baskets' on their legs! There are lots of great websites to help - here are a few to get you started;

<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees/bees-fun-facts-and-activities-children>

<https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/storage/resource/downloads/85d62cb2-ad17-4251-a634-f6d8b53d2be2/original/low-res-understanding-bees-education-pack-england-1.pdf>

Alternatively you could – you can always add numbers/letters/phonetic sounds to your bee trail to link in to what your child/children are learning about.

🐝 **See Like a Bee Hunt!** – print off the See Like a Bee sheet. Bees play a really important role in pollinating lots of plants. There are some wildflowers and plants which bees are particularly attracted to. Either in your garden or on your daily walk, see if you can spot the different plants which attract bees.

🐝 **Bee spot** – either in your garden, or if you go out for a walk, see if you can spot any bees. Can you see what they are doing? Are they travelling from one flower to the next? Can you tell what type of bee they are? Use the Bee Identification sheet to help you

🐝 **Bee pollen transfer** – Children can create their own bee puppet or you can cut out the bee template and colour in. Attach this to a lollipop stick/stick/paper straw and place double – sided tape on the back of the bee's body and wings (if you haven't got double sided tape, a loop of sellotape can be used.) Then set up your 'flowers.' For the flowers you will need coloured bowls. You can draw some flower shapes on paper / use paper cake cases / or just use coloured bowls. In each bowl place a different type of powder e.g. sand/sugar – it works well if you can use different coloured powders (we used; sugar, some cake sprinkles and some powder from Wotsits!) Move the bee from flower to flower and place in the powder – see how the different powders stick on to the bee and also spread from flower to flower – this is a great visual explanation of how bees help with pollination.



Day 2

You will need:	
Alder/pine cones	
Yellow wool	
Old plastic bag	
Yellow paint & black pen	
paper	
Natural material (leaves, flowers, twigs etc) Chalk	
Playdoh / ingredients to make playdoh	



🐝 Alder bees – Either in your garden, or if you are heading out for your daily walk, see if you can collect some alder cones or if not any cones e.g. pine cones can be used. Then cut a small rectangle from an old plastic bag and tie this on to a piece of yellow wool – this is going to make your wings (Attach the plastic about 1/3 way down the wool.) Next wrap the wool around the cone and keep wrapping until you have attached the wings. Now tie off the wool and you have your alder bee! See if you can find somewhere in your garden to hang up your bee!



🐝 Painted bees – you can either use stones or wood for this activity. Paint your stone / wood using yellow and black to make your bee. You could add some eyes by either painting / drawing them on or if you have any eye stickers you could use those. You could make some wings out of recycled plastic or using natural materials – we used leaves for our bees!

🐝 Fingerprint bees - If you have any yellow paint, use your fingers to paint yellow prints on to your paper – these are going to be your bees. When these are dry you can add details such as the black stripes, antennae and wings with a black pen.



🐝 Bee nature collage – We love to make collages with a range of natural materials. See what natural materials you can collect either in your garden or if you go on a nature walk. Things like dandelions are great to use in nature collages. Why not have a go at making a bee out of natural material – or you could have a go at making a beehive!

🐝 Bee playdoh – We love to make natural playdoh – use the recipe attached or you can use any playdoh you may have at home. Encourage children to make their own bees out of playdoh and natural material. You can also experiment with making honeycomb shapes if you have any cutters.



Day 3

You will need:	
Recycled plastic bottles/bottle tops/tin can	
Paint – yellow & black	
sharpies	
Glue / double sided tape	
scissors	
Any other craft material you may have	
Bubble wrap	
Paper & cardboard	
Yellow & black wool	
sticks	



🐝 **Recycled Bee garden decorations** – We love using recycled materials as well here at Muddy Feet. Why not have a go at making some bee-themed decorations for your garden. Use a clean, empty plastic bottle – we used the small white ones which are used for small yoghurt drinks. Decorate the bottle using sharpie pens / paint / collage. Then create antennae (you could use pipe cleaners or straws) and cut up some clean recycled plastic for the wings. These can be attached using glue or double sided tape.

🐝 **Tin Can Bees** – Clean out an empty tin can and remove the label – (take care as these can be sharp around the top) Paint the can using yellow and black paints (I used general kid's paints and did a couple of coats.) If you want to add in some tool use, you could attach the bottle top eyes using tacks and a hammer. Alternatively you could glue / tape these on. Then cut out some plastic wings and attach using double sided tape or glue (We used plastic from an empty milk bottle carton.)



🐝 **Bubble wrap bee hive** – paint on to some bubble wrap and use this to print on to some paper. Leave this to dry. Then cut out hexagonal shapes. Use these shapes to create your bee hive – this is a great opportunity to talk about beehives and the fact that they are made out of six sided hexagonal cells. Each beehive has a queen bee who governs the entire colony.



🐝 **Stick bee hive** Stick honeycomb – Can you make hexagons using sticks? Can you add several together? This could be used linked to maths work on shapes - tessellation

🐝 **Wool wrapped Bees** – Cut an oval shape out of cardboard. Pre-cut little grooves all around the edge (this makes it easier for little ones to wrap the wool around. Start with yellow wool and then add the black wool (simply tie the colours together) Add some googly eyes and paper wings. You could use plain paper or old magazines. Next stick on to a lollipop stick or stick



Day 4

You will need:	
Wildflower seeds	
Clay & compost	
Shallow container	
Marbles/glass beads	
empty tin can	
Water & sugar	
Bamboo / paper / straws	
paint / any other Craft materials	



🐝 **Bee friendly Seed Bombs** – Bees love wildflowers. The bee population is in decline, so why not make some wildflower seed bombs so you can help to grow some wildflowers to attract bees! The idea of seed bombs is that they can be thrown into wild areas / your garden to help brighten them up! To make a seed bomb - mix 2 parts clay with 1 part compost. Add some water until the consistency is the same as cooking dough. Roll clay into balls and add 20-30 seeds into each ball. Leave to dry. Now your seed bombs are ready – they can be thrown into your garden/ wild space. Please make sure you get the landowners permission before you ‘seed bomb!’ Alternatively, they make great gifts to give to others.

🐝 **Bee watering station** – bees need water not only to drink, but also to help keep the hive at a constant temperature. Ponds and birdbaths are often too deep for bees and many drown as a result. All you need is a shallow dish (this could be a foil container, shallow plant pot holder, plate) some marbles or glass beads. Place the marbles or beads in a layer; this gives the bees something to stand on. Then add water and place next to some flowers or where you have seen bees. The water must be kept clean to make sure the bees don’t carry diseases back to the hive.

🐝 **Bee revival** – if you find a poorly bee that seems to be struggling, you can try to help them by giving the bee a spoon full of 50/50 Water and sugar mixture. This can be enough to help it revive and get back to the hive but it should only be used if the bee is struggling NOT as a replacement for flowers as it is full of empty calories for the bee – just as it is for us!

🐝 **Bee homes** – why not create a bee home in your garden. Mason bees are in decline (from things such as pesticides, insecticides etc) They make their homes in small spaces and tin cans make an ideal base for this! You could decorate your can before making your bee house by painting it. If you want to hang up your bee home, you can make two holes either side of your tin can and thread some twine through this. There are a variety of things that you can use to make the inside of your bee home – you could use bamboo, straws, paper straws or even rolled up pieces of paper. Whatever you are using, place these inside your tin can, they need to fit snugly. Then you can hang your bee house up!

If you want to have a go at some tool use – have a go at drilling some holes in a log to create some spaces for mason bees to nest in.



Day 5

You will need:	
Waggle Dance sheet	
Water, buckets	
Sponge / water squirter	
pipette	
Ice cube trays	
tweezers	
Pompoms / water beads / glass beads	
Bean bags / plastic balls	
Fire pit / toaster, bread & honey	



🐝 **Bee Waggle Dance** - use the Waggle Dance sheet to have a go at being a bee and doing the 'Waggle Dance' You could even have a go at making your own waggle dance up!

🐝 **Nectar game**– this is a great game to play when it is warm. Fill a bucket with water. Provide children with sponges / water squirters. Place an empty bucket in another area – invite children to suck up the nectar – as a bee does and to transport it to the hive (the empty bucket) How much nectar can you collect? You could turn this into a relay game!

🐝 **Bee pollination water explore** – This is a great way for children to practice their fine motor skills as well as learning about pollen transfer. Fill a container with water (you can colour this yellow using food colouring if you have any) Then give children a pipette and an empty ice cube tray. The children can have a go at transferring the nectar from the container (the flower) to the hive (the ice cube tray)












🐝 **Pollen transfer** – this is another great activity to practice fine motor skills – use an egg carton and a pair of kid's tweezers. In one egg carton place yellow pompoms / water beads and invite children to transfer these from one carton to another.

🐝 **Beanbag / ball bee games** – Scatter coloured balls / beanbags around your garden. These are the pollen on your flowers. Challenge children to collect up the pollen and bring it back to the hive

🐝 **Toast and Honey** – We love a campfire at Muddy Feet – if you have a fire pit / outdoor fire space at home – try toasting some bread! If not, toast the bread inside – then add honey and bring outside to eat! Food always tastes better outside!

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	Bluebell		Daisy
	Foxglove		Honeysuckle
 Lavender – these may not be flowering yet but you may spot the plants 			Forget-me-nots
	Primrose		Ivy
	Hawthorne / May Blossom		Dandelion

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Waggle Dance

If a honey bee finds flowers with a lot of nectar and pollen, she goes back to the nest. She tells the other bees about it so they can find the flowers as well. The honey bee does a waggle dance in the nest where it is dark. She doesn't dance on the floor – she dances on the honeycomb, which is upright like a wall.

If you want to see the 'Waggle Dance' in action – there are lots of great videos on YouTube!

The bee dances as if the top of the nest was the sun. She dances in a straight line wagging her tail, in the direction of the nectar and pollen. She then loops back round, waggles again, loops the other way – so it is like a figure of 8.

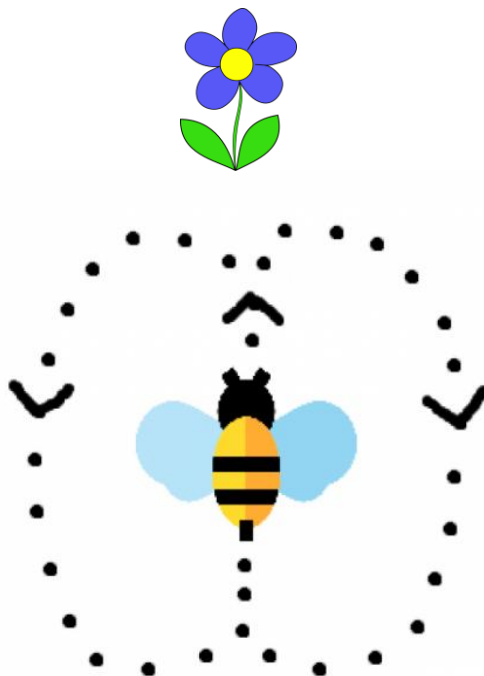
If the flower is a long way away, she does more waggles! If it is closer, she does less waggles

Waggle Dance Game

Choose a starting place – this will be your hive! Then have a look at the flowers in your garden (if you don't have any flowers, you could use coloured ribbons and hang these somewhere in your garden.) Take it in turns to choose a flower (or ribbon) Don't tell anyone which flower you have chosen. Come back to the hive and do the waggle dance to show the other bees where your flower is. You need to waggle in a straight line, towards your flower, then turn right and loop back to the hive. You then need to waggle back towards your flower and then turn left and loop back to the hive. Can they find your flower?

Take turns in having a go!

Now can you have a go at making up your own 'Waggle Dance?'



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Muddy Feet Playdoh Recipe

1 x cup plain flour

½ Cup salt

2 tablespoons Cream of tartar

2 tablespoons vegetable oil

1 cup water (with food colouring added – optional)

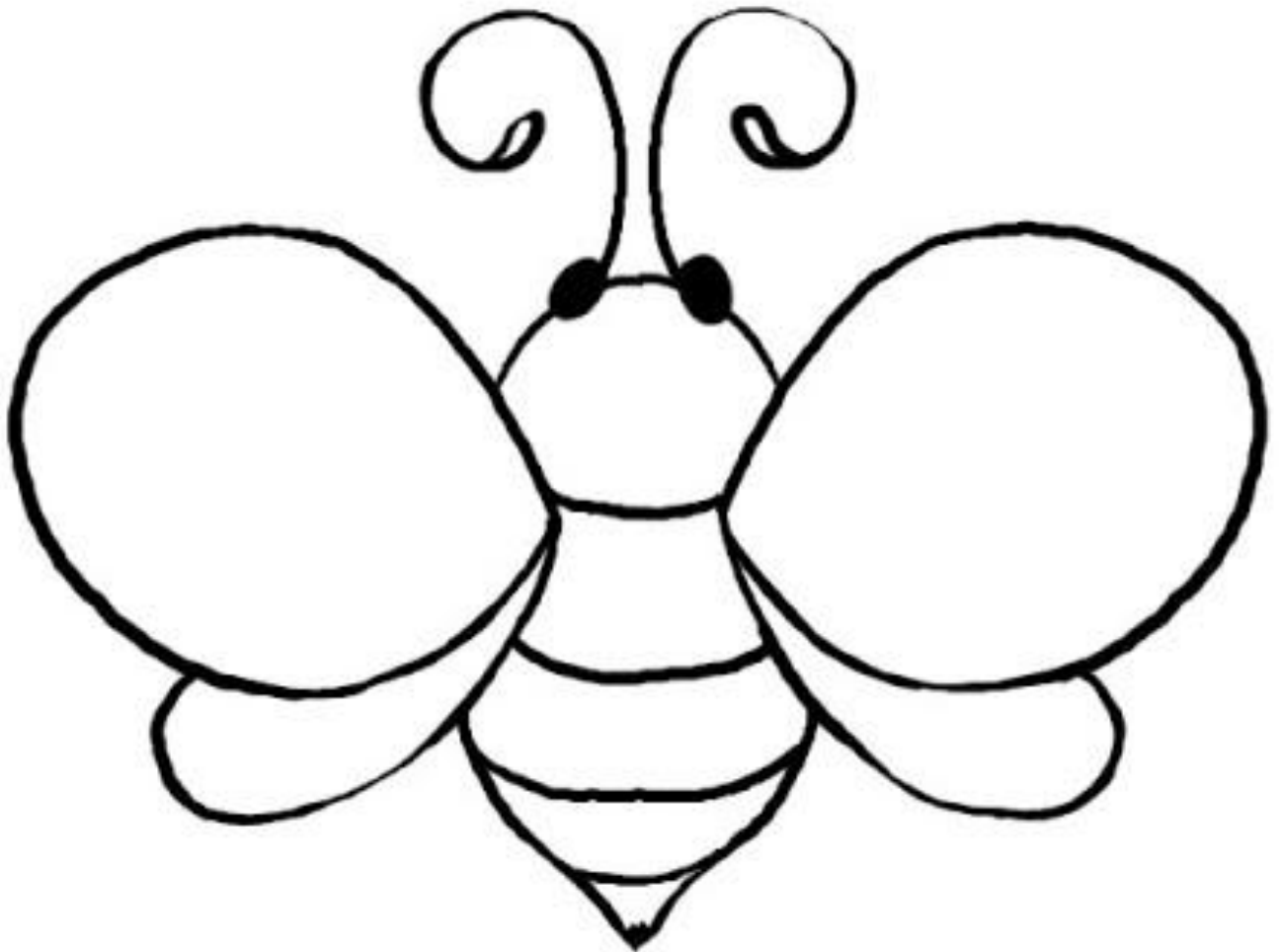
Put all ingredients into a saucepan and stir over a medium heat until dough begins to form into a ball. Allow to cool then knead until smooth.



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Bee Template













Bee Identification

Bee identification

All
bumblebees
shown are
worker
bees



 14-17mm	 12-18mm	 11mm	 10-16mm	 12-18mm
<input type="checkbox"/> Buff-tailed bumblebee	<input type="checkbox"/> Willoughby's leafcutter bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Red mason bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Tree bumblebee	<input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed bumblebee
 13-14mm	 10mm	 13mm	 13mm	 14-15mm
<input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed bumblebee	<input type="checkbox"/> Tawny mining bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Common carder bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Wool carder bee	<input type="checkbox"/> Hairy footed flower bee

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk

These are just a few of the 250+ species of bee in the UK!