

Session Plan

1. Teacher's name: **Annette**
2. Title: **Build an Insect Hotel**
3. Age: **8-12 (younger with parents)**
4. Group size: **5-12 (with helpers)**
5. Duration: **1 ½ hours**
6. Brief overview: **Learn how beneficial insects help us and build an insect hotel to encourage them.**
7. Holistic Planning (eyes, head, heart, hands):

Keep in mind opportunities for holistic learning through “eyes, head, heart and hands”

- **Eyes:** What will the children observe with all their senses?
 - **Insects at work**
 - **Flowers blooming**
 - **Fresh air and wind in the trees**
 - **Birds singing**
- **Heart:** What experiences are designed to connect them or feel love or empathy?
 - **Instead of fearing insects, learning to appreciate them.**
 - **Making the connection between insects, pollination, and our food.**
 - **Nature journaling to help build the connection**
- **Hands:** What practical, hands-on experiences will include the whole body?
 - **Walking through the woods to look for insect signs and gathering materials.**
 - **Building an insect hotel and using a screwdriver**

- Walking through the garden to see insects pollinating.
- Journaling about what they observe in a nature journal
- **Head:** What new information will they learn?
 - How insects benefit us
 - How to encourage them
 - How to observe them
 - How to nature journal

8. Preparation of materials and resources

Required Materials and Tools:

How to prepare space and/or people: Walk the area prior to the class to pick places to point out and use for examples. Have supplies ready and on hand:

- Insect hotels partially built
 - Boards, cans, screwdrivers and screws ready to go
 - Boards should have spaces drawn out and holes predrilled
 - Will need extra adults to help with screwdrivers
 - Have some material on hand to use and locate more to collect
 - Make sure the day of class that the area to collect is free from snakes
- Nature journal supplies:
 - Paper and stapler
 - Pencils
- Students to bring:
 - Nature journal and pencil
 - Screwdriver?

9. Natural Flow Content

In 3 parts, one for each of sowing, growing and harvesting, up to a maximum of 5 activities in total.

Sowing

include an inspiration, motivation or provocation such as a story, a song, or a way to capture the attention and imagination of the children. It could even be a display in the room or another interesting situation which a teacher has prepared and observes the children's reaction to it.

- Have a table of various types of Insect Hotels including what we will be making.
- Have pictures of various types of insects with some info on the back of the card.
- Act out being a pollinator with the rafflesia flower
- Read from the Insect Hotel book

Growing

- Observation walk in the woods and garden
- Building the hotel
- Working in the nature journal

Harvesting

You could gather feedback from children (about what they enjoyed, learnt) or something which they create with which will remind them of the workshop.

- Do a review of what they learned
- What was their favorite?
- Where will they put their insect hotel?

10. Permaculture ethics and principles

How does this session relate to each of:

Earth care: Becoming aware of how insects benefit us and our food. Observing the world around us.

People care: If we encourage the insects around us, we have more food to share. And we can encourage others to make their own observations.

Fair share: We can help others in observing the world. The kids can help others build their hotels. We can plant more gardens for pollinators.

Which of the following principles are used in this session plan? Delete the ones that are not relevant, and add an explanation for those you keep.

Holmgren principles

1. **Observe and interact** (walk through the woods and garden, build the hotel)
2. **Catch and store energy** (Build the hotel to encourage more insects)
3. **Obtain a yield** (By encouraging more insects, we can have more things pollinated and more to harvest)
4. **Use and value renewable resources and services** (We are learning to value the resource of insects)
5. **Produce no waste** (We are repurposing leftover wood and cans)

6. *Design from patterns to details* (By using materials that specific insects prefer, we are observing their lifestyle patterns in hopes of having more pollinators)
7. *Integrate rather than segregate* (An insect hotel integrates several species of insects for the greater good of the garden)
8. ***Use small and slow solutions*** (An insect hotel is a small and simple way of bringing more awareness, respect of nature, and habitat for insects)
9. *Use and value diversity* (With an insect hotel we are valuing the varied species of insects and learning about them as we observe them)

Attitudinal Principles (from Bill Mollison)

- ***Work with nature rather than against it*** (we are learning to appreciate insects instead of fear them)
- *The problem is the solution* (The problem-we fear insects is the solution to our pollination need)
- *Minimum effort for maximum effect* (The small and simple act of building an insect hotel will bring maximum pollinators)
- *Work with Nature (rather than against her)* (With the hotel we will encourage insects and respectfully observe them)
- *Everything Gardens (or has an effect on its environment)* (With the insect hotel we can observe the effect insects have on our plants)

12. Plan

- Have a table with insect hotels, pictures of insects and possibly a bug game for kids to look at as they come. Refer to principles.
- Start within 5 minutes of class time talking about pollination (5 min)
 - Have the rafflesia flower and a large toy insect
 - Oliver could be the bee
- Introduce insect hotels (7 min)
 - Talk about different insects and what materials they like
 - Show different hotels or pictures
- Go on a walk in the woods (20 min)
 - Make insect observations for the journal
 - Collect materials for the hotel
 - Finish with a walk through the garden
- Come back to the tables and build the hotels (30 min)
 - Use the screwdrivers
 - Add in the material
- Nature Journal (10)
 - Introduce and hand out page
 - Write in the information

- Draw a picture
- Review the class (while they are journaling)
 - What did we talk about
 - What was your favorite?
 - Where will you put your hotel?

13. CiP Curriculum theme

Make X in the column if relevant for younger or older children

	Theme		Topic	3-6 yrs	7-12 yrs	Older
A	Introducing permaculture	1	Permaculture ethics & principles	x	x	x
		2	Connections		x	x
B	Living nature	3	Soil and stone			
		4	Water			
		5	Plants and trees	x	x	x
		6	The animal, fungus and bacteria kingdoms			
		7	Air			
C	Design	8	Designing			
D	Growing food	9	Growing food			
		10	Preparing food			
E	Built environment and resource use	11	Buildings			
		12	Using nature's gifts wisely			
F	Social permaculture	13	My body, heart and mind			
		14	My community			
		15	Our human family			

14. School theme

Delete the ones which are not relevant:

- Language
- Science
- Art
- Physical Education

15. Season

State which season this activity is appropriate for.

[Spring and Fall](#)

16. Setting

Forest, Mountain, Indoors, Near water, etc

[Garden, Woods](#)

17. References

Names of authors, books, websites, or other resources which you have used or taken inspiration from. Make sure if you have directly quoted anyone else's written work that it is written here and is in quotation marks in the rest of the session plan (to avoid any plagiarism).

- [Bug Hotel, a Clover Robin Book of Nature](#)

18. Inspiration

This is an opportunity for you to share inspiration received from children e.g. about what to do next.

19. Ideas for extending the learning and experiences