**Garden Wildlife**

(Mike Unwin, RSPB, adapted by Catherine Woolley)

Look! Paw **prints** in the snow. You have a secret visitor in your garden.

Visual: make footprints in cornflour ‘snow’.

It’s a fox. Do you see that bushy tail? That **thick coat** keeps her warm and snug even on the coldest winter nights. Her long ears listen for danger and her shiny black nose sniffs out food.

Tactile: Long fur fabric.

These **apples** from autumn are all bruised and rotten. But someone must be enjoying them – they’ve pecked lots of holes.

Smell/taste: apple slices.

It’s a blackbird. Look at his **shiny yellow** beak. Blackbirds love to eat juicy worms, but these are hard to find then the ground is frozen. Old fruit makes a tasty treat.

Visual: gold foil triangle ‘beak’

Yellow and purple, orange and white; crocuses are sprouting up all over. But why is that flower **shaking** about? And what’s that funny noise? Bzzzz…

Proprioception: Wave hands from side to side (add flower finger puppets if appropriate).

The spring sunshine has woken up a bumblebee. It has been fast asleep under some leaves since autumn. Now it is visiting flowers to sip their sweet **nectar**.

Taste: light honey (on spoon or dissolved in warm water) or elderflower cordial.

What’s that bubbly **jelly** floating in the pond? It’s full of little black specks.

Tactile: soaked basil seeds\* in a tray.

It’s a frog. Those long legs are for **jumping** and those big feet are for swimming. The jelly is called frogspawn. The black specks are tiny tadpoles ready to hatch.

Vestibular: jump up and down OR Proprioception: drop beanbag frog onto stretched lycra

Snuffle, snuffle, grunt. Something is shuffling around the flowerbed. Do you see that twitchy **nose**?

Proprioception/Visual: pull faces together in a mirror.

It’s a hedgehog, searching for slugs, worms and snails. At the first sign of danger, it rolls up into a spiky ball. Don’t touch! Those spines are sharp.

Tactile: feel small spiky ball.

*\* Use approximately 100g of Basil Seeds and place them in a large lunch box. Fill the box with warm water and leave the seeds to soak for half an hour. Basil seeds are very sticky so have a wipe ready and clear up after the story as they stick fast where they dry!*