

Taking care of our feathered friends

Key Stage 2 | The World Around Us and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding



The Northern Ireland Curriculum

Interdependence

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- how living things rely on each other within the natural world;

Place

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- features of, and variations in places, including physical, human, climatic, vegetation and animal life;

Mutual Understanding in the Local Community

Pupils should be enabled to explore:

- playing an active and meaningful part in the life of the community and being concerned about the wider environment.

Success Criteria

- I can identify the basic needs of hens.
- I can explain why hen welfare is important.
- I can recognise how the British Lion mark supports good animal welfare.
- I can demonstrate responsible attitudes towards animals.

Key vocabulary

Hen, chicken, welfare, care, food, water, shelter, space, hen house, nesting box, farmer, British Lion, vaccinated

Resources needed

- Lesson presentation
- My happy hen home activity sheet

Prior learning

It would be useful if children already had understanding that animals are living things and have basic needs. It would also be helpful for children to have seen or eaten eggs as food.

Time	Teaching activity	Teacher notes
10 mins	Introduce the children to the theme of the lesson using the Lesson Presentation . Elicit what the children already know about caring for animals and their understanding of eggs as food. Continue by asking if children know where eggs come from.	
15 mins	Explain to the children what the British Lion mark is and what this means for the production of eggs and the welfare of hens. Discuss with the children what hens need to live well. Explain briefly that this is not the case for all hens and eggs that are produced but that this is why the British Lion standard exists.	

Time	Teaching activity	Teacher notes
10 mins	Introduce the activity to the children and give them each a My Happy Hen Home Activity Sheet . Explain that they need to draw a space for hens to live that supports their welfare and provides everything they need to live a happy and healthy life. Encourage children to think carefully about the things that have been discussed and ensure these are included in their drawings.	<i>If you feel it is required, you could model this activity to the children or you could show some images on the screen of some positive environments for hens to live in.</i> <i>Extension: Once children have drawn their space for hens, they could label their drawing and then explain why having that thing in their space is important/beneficial for the hens.</i>
20 mins	Discuss with the children why hen welfare matters and ask the questions on the slide to assess what children have learned.	<i>If you wish, you could provide children with sentence starters to help them answer the questions, such as 'I learned that...', or 'I can help by...'.</i>

Lesson reflections / next steps / teacher notes

Assessment opportunities

- Observe the children's use of vocabulary and understanding during discussions.
- Review the activity sheets of the hen home designs to see if children included all that a hen needs.
- Listen to the children's responses to the plenary questions showing their understanding of responsibility and hen welfare.

Suggestions for future learning

- This lesson would link well to food chains and animal habitats.

Home learning opportunities

- Encourage children to look for the British Lion mark when they are in shops and at home, explaining to their adults what this means.
- Draw or write about how farmers care for hens and other animals.