

# LESSON PLAN: DEAD OR ALIVE

## Objective

Children will have an increased understanding about what dead and alive mean.

## Resources

Flowering potted plant, dead potted plant or cut dead flowers.  
Live bugs in a clear container & some dead flies, wasp or bug.  
Magnifying glasses, to help look at the bugs, or take outside on a bug hunt.  
*When Dinosaurs Die*

## Timings

## Activity

### 5 mins

Introduction- Have a small group of children come and sit with you.

**We are going to spend some time thinking about things that are alive and things that have died.**

- Show them the live potted plant and ask them to tell you about it. Note things like the flowers being bright, the leaves are healthy, the soil, it is growing, what it needs to help it continue to grow.
- Show them the dead potted plant or dead/ dried cut flowers and ask them to tell you about what they see. Note the differences, faded colours, difference in texture to the leaves, etc.

### 10 mins

**I am pleased to say you're all alive. In fact everyone in this room is alive**

Then prompt a discussion about being alive:

- How can we tell we are alive? How do we know? What can we do? What does our body do without us even realising? What do our bodies need to be able to do to keep us alive?

**Aren't we wonderful!**

- Look at live bugs; discuss them moving, eating and even though we can't see it they are breathing.
- Look at dead bugs; discuss what is different.

### 10 mins

Thinking about what dead means: Read *When Dinosaurs Die*.

**So what would we see that's different in somebody who had died? How could we tell?**

What are the differences:

- Body has stopped working; no longer breathing; heart not beating (so blood not being pumped around their body so they'll look pale and will begin to feel cold to touch); no longer feel things; nothing hurts anymore; no pain; can't eat or drink; move; talk etc.
- Clarify that dead is not being asleep, although someone might look like they are asleep, once someone's body stops working they have died and can't come back to life.

## If you have time

Invite children to explore outside to see what they can see that is alive and if they find anything that has died.

## Plenary

### 5 mins

Re-cap facts about **alive** and **dead**. Use this language.

Remind children that most people grow to be very old before they die, and so to try not to worry themselves. They may have known someone who has died, they may have had a pet that has died, and they might have felt sad or scared or angry about, or maybe they didn't, and that's ok. Explain that children can come and talk to you and name other staff, if they want to.

*Remember, it's ok to say to children that you're going to think about the best way to answer a question, if you are worried it could open a can of worms, please ensure you then seek advice and go back to the group later and answer when you've had time to think and formulate how best to put it.*

*Ring our Freephone National Helpline on 08088 020 021 for support or more ideas*