

Food Chain Chase



Objective

Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.



Equipment

- Bibs or sashes (1 per child)



Preparation

- Set a square in the playground, field or sports hall, with room for all children to move around safely at different speeds.
- Divide the children into three different sized groups; one large (**Grass** group), one medium (**Rabbit** group) and one small (**Foxes** group) e.g. for a class of 30 children: group 1 (15 children); group 2 (10 children); and group 3 (5 children).
- Tell each group their group name i.e. **Grass, Rabbits and Foxes**. Give all the children in the **Grass** group a bib or sash and ask them to tuck it into their waistbands. Give all the children in the **Rabbit** group a bib or sash and ask them to tuck it into their waistbands, with at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the bib / sash visible.
- Explain the basic rules of the game to the children: **Grass** can be eaten by **Rabbits** by taking rabbits' bibs; **Rabbits** can be eaten by **Foxes** by taking foxes' bibs; but **Foxes** cannot eat **Grass**.



Instructions

- Ask the children in the **Grass** group to go and find a space in the area and stand still. Ask children in the **Rabbit** group to stand on one side of the square and ask the children in the **Foxes** group stand on the opposite side. When you give the signal to start the game, both the **Foxes** and **Rabbits** must move into the square.
- During the game, the **Grass** group should not move. **Rabbits** should move around the area and try to eat as much **Grass** as possible. **Foxes** must eat as many **Rabbits** as possible. If a **Rabbit** has their bib taken, they must move to the edge of the area.
- The first game should be timed for around 1 – 2 minutes. After the first game, children should change roles. The aim is to give children the opportunity to be in each of the three roles.



Other information

- Explain to the children that this activity helps them to learn about how different animals and plants gain energy and nutrients from food and how it is all linked together in a chain. For example, plants use sunlight, carbon dioxide from the air, water and minerals from the soil to produce their food / energy. As animals do not make energy in this way they must find and consume food differently. A simple two-link food chain is plant (Grass) – herbivore (Rabbit). The natural progression from the two-link food chain is to add a carnivore to make it a three-link chain: plant (Grass) – herbivore (Rabbit) – carnivore (Fox). Help the group identify the producers, predators and prey in the chain.

