

## Soroptimist Beeplus Project

Beeplus would have been a grade many of us would have been satisfied with. However this B-Plus is nothing to do with grades but is the story of life of bees and how necessary they are to all of us.

Soroptimist International Republic of Ireland have been rolling out an education project to national schools throughout the country for a number of years.

Do you know how a Bee Hotel is made? Well children who participate in this project will and so much more about the fascinating world of bees...



**It is so important to educate children about these amazing insects, their life and how they influence our environment which is why Soroptimist International support such a worthwhile, educational project.**



The Soroptimist BeePlus Project for Schools was created with the aim of raising awareness of the decline of the honeybee population. This project shows children and teachers how they can make a difference to bees and the environment.

A teacher's guidebook and pupil's workbook on CD are supplied.



The original pilot was rolled out to 10 schools in 2011 and following the great success of the project was rolled out to 25 schools and over 1200 children nationwide in 2012. In 2014, we added further schools to the project. Primary schools from Athlone to Wexford took part in the project.

Again the response was very positive from both teachers and pupils.

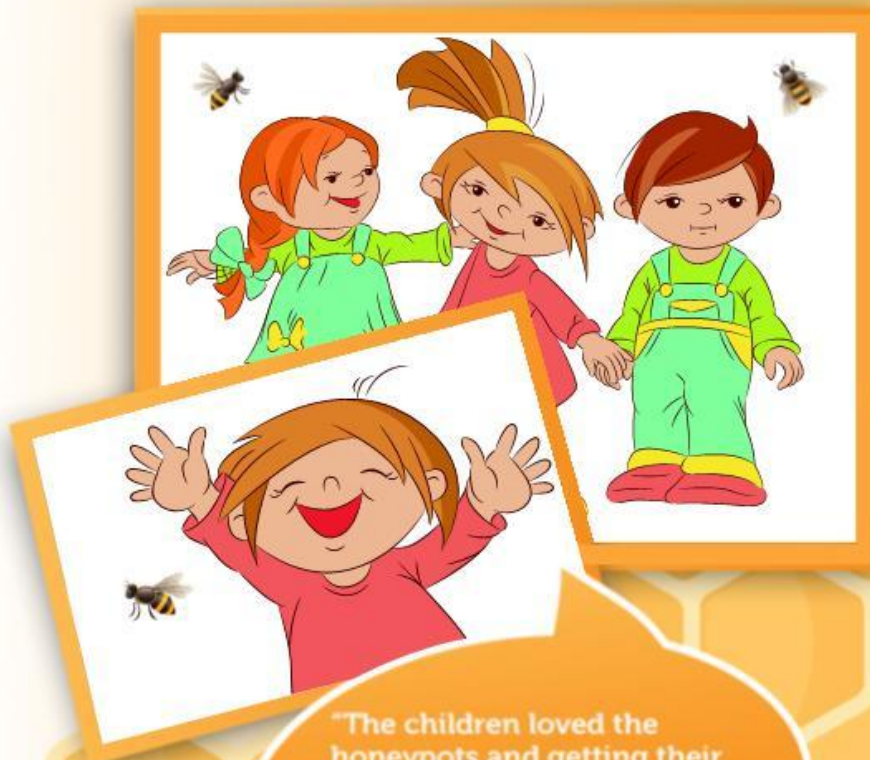


"The children loved the honeypots and getting their own books... they are less afraid of bees and more interested in observing them"  
Mary Dunford, Garranabane N.S.

## Positive Teacher feedback...

“The children want to grow lots of flowers in their garden, they want to put up a bee house. The children are warning their parents that gardening chemicals can kill bees”

Stephanie Mc Makin, Scoil na Maighdine



“The children loved the honeypots and getting their own books... they are less afraid of bees and more interested in observing them”  
Mary Dunford, Garranabane N.S.



Children explore all there is to know about bees as well as their colonies, bee keeping and the making of honey and beeswax.

There are even recipes for cooking with honey.



### Life cycle of the hive

When a hive is filled with honey and has no room for new eggs, worker bees search for a suitable place to set up a new colony.

The old queen takes about half the worker bees and starts a new colony.

A new queen is left behind with the remaining bees to continue the old colony.

### How honeybees talk

Honeybees communicate using the different chemicals and smells that they make.

Honeybees can direct other bees to food by moving inside the hive in different patterns.

This is called a waggle dance.

The **ROUND** dance tells other bees food is not far from the hive (less than 100 metres).

The **WAGGLE** dance tells other bees that the nectar is further away.

The bee moves round and waggles its body as moves along the middle.

The waggle dance tell other honeybees in direction to fly.

The longer it wags dancing the further the nectar.

### Pollination and Food Gathering

When bees collect nectar from bright flowers, they also collect pollen.

They use nectar to make honey.

As they fly from plant to plant, they transfer the pollen to the plants, helping them to reproduce.

Gardens with lots of different plants make a healthier habitat.

Bees from a hive will pollinate flowers up to five kilometres away.



A worker bee collecting pollen

"The children understand how honey is made, they appreciate the importance of bees for the environment"

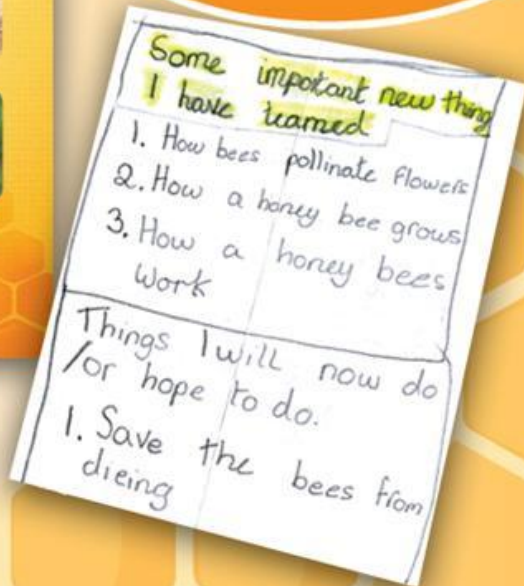
Elaine Looby, Scoil Mhuire, Dungarven



## Looking at Mini Beasts



"The children loved the powerpoints on the CD, they loved all the pictures of the bees in the hive" Stephanie Mc Mackin, Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire, Newmarket-on-Fergus



## Different sorts of bees

### Honeybees Advanced Social Bees



Drone, Male



Queen



Female Worker

### Bumble Bees Social Bees



Male



Queen



Female Worker

### Solitary Bees



Male



Female

"Show and tell Day - Children were given the opportunity to see a beehive, different types of honey.. and to handle the equipment used by beekeepers"

Fianait Uí Bhriain, Scoil Gharbháin

Niamh Rees 9

Kilrane N.S.

My favourite topics:

1. The bees
2. Colouring bees
3. knowing what a girl/boy bee is.

My favourite activities:

1. the shapes
2. Honey bee at work
3. my bee motif.

Some important new things I have learned:

1. what a boy/girl bee is
2. queen bee lay eggs only on the top of the beehive
3. inside a bee hive a hexagon

Things I will now do for hope to do

1. be a bee keeper
2. make lot of honey





"Last year a grandfather of one of our pupils spoke about beekeeping which was truly fascinating. It was wonderful to see his suit and gloves and also his own beehive"

Presentation Primary School, Drogheda

Feedback Form

Name: Caoimhe Age: 10  
School: Kilrane N.S.

My favourite topics

1. Word Search
2. Crossword
3. Colouring

My favourite activities

1. Make a honey bee
2. Colour by numbers
3. Cooking

Caoimhe, Age 10  
Kilrane N.S.

What we achieved...

**Soroptimist International  
Republic of Ireland** using our voice to  
promote education, empowerment and  
enabling initiatives.



“We learnt so much about bees and gardening for bees and I have no doubt the children will always remember participating in these projects.

We would definitely participate in this fantastic project if we were offered it again”

Presentation Primary School, Drogheda



Where do we go from here?

For further details:  
[www.soroptimistireland.com](http://www.soroptimistireland.com)  
or contact  
Rosalie Byrne-Muir  
on 087 9005023.

A+ is the grade we should be  
awarding our hardworking bees.  
Without them life as we know it  
would not exist!



**ENDANGERED SPECIES**

