15–20 mins

Bubble Munchers

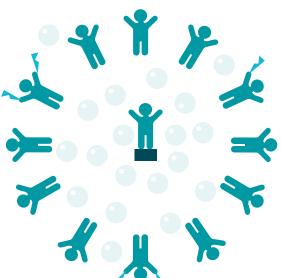### Equipment required

- Bubbles (machine/bubble wands)
- Newspaper (optional)

To complete the activity

1. Ask learners to consider how and where they find their food. In pairs, ask learners to discuss how they would catch food if they were stranded on a desert island? Discuss how different animals in the wild find and catch their food. Encourage them to consider the different adaptations they have to help them. Explain that in the sea, many animals pursue their prey (e.g. sharks and dolphins). How about animals that don't move, e.g. sea anemones and barnacles? Explain that these animals attach to hard rocks and need to capture food which is swimming or drifting past them in the water.

2. In an open play area, ask learners to sit on the floor in a circle with the bubble machine or volunteer/s blowing bubbles in the centre. The learners are sea anemones, and the bubbles are prey (tiny particles of food in the water). With the bubble machine/volunteer blowing bubbles around the circle, encourage learners to catch as many as possible, while remaining seated in one place.

After a few minutes, ask the learners how they found the activity and what they needed to do to catch the bubbles. They may realise that to catch food, they need to stretch out their arms and wave them about, just as sea anemones do with their tentacles, to take in plankton and minerals.

3. As an addition to this activity, if space allows, offer learners rolled up or fanned out newspaper to 'extend their limbs'. Ask them to work out which is most effective and consider how these compare to the feeding adaptations of real animals.

4. Next, ask the learners to become dolphins and explain that the bubbles are fish. This time, the learners can 'swim' around chasing their prey. After a few minutes ask the learners if this was an easier way to feed. Did they catch more? Did they get tired? This may prompt a discussion about energy gained and lost, and the balance needed between energy used and energy consumed. Is actively chasing food always worth the energy spent?

- Bubbles
- learners
- Bubble Machine
- Newspaper