

# InEdu

## Spikey's journey – An Exploration Box Guide for teachers

DEAR TEACHER,

We invite you to use this exploration box, that we created as part of the InEdu project. InEdu is a four-country collaborative project funded under the European Union's Erasmus+ programme. It involves educators from four EU countries (Poland, Austria, Ireland and the United Kingdom) working together to share knowledge and educational approaches. The focus of the project was to develop new resources that support the teaching of science in primary school.

Together the InEdu partners have created a teacher resource package of practical activities on environmental science for children aged between 7 to 9 years.

### What is the exploration box?

The exploration box is made up of online resources structured to use in combination with a Kamishibai theatre. It contains:

#### On-line materials:

- 4 class projects, 8 additional activities, the story of Spikey's journey, and a set of Frequently Asked Questions. All these materials can be downloaded on: <https://fundacja.uniwersytetdzieci.pl/inedu-en/>

#### Support materials:

- a Kamishibai theatre frame containing 4 illustrations within the main window, 8 small pictures for the side wings, and this guide for teachers.

### What are the didactical principles of this box?

'Hands on, Minds on!'. All methods are based on this core principle of inquiry-based learning. Students are engaged in exploring the activities interactively and in a self-determined way. Instead of acting as students, the children are invited to find 'creative' solutions and find themselves in the role of scientists driven by their curiosity.

### How to use the exploration box?

Teachers can engage their class in the story of Spikey the hedgehog. There are four class projects in the box that connect to Spikey's journey, each with their own learning outcomes, objectives and activities linked to different topics relating to life and environmental sciences. The four projects are aligned to the four seasons of the year. Teachers can start with the Spring class project which is supported by Spikey's journey at the beginning of the school year. It is not necessary to begin with Spring however, should teachers wish, they can begin with Autumn in September.

#### Project partners



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eucunet  
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## SPRING

**Title:** Spikey meets a rock!

**Research topic:** Living and non-living things

**Exploration question:** What is a living thing?

**Duration:** Two sessions of approximately 60 minutes each

**Links to Irish Primary School Social, Environmental and Scientific Curriculum:** Living Things (variety, characteristics & processes of Life) & Scientific skills.



## SUMMER

**Title:** Spikey looks for food!

**Research topic:** Biological life processes of animals

**Exploration question:** What's for lunch?

**Duration:** Two or three sessions of approximately 40 minutes each.

**Links to Irish Primary School Social, Environmental and Scientific Curriculum:** Living Things (processes of Life), Environmental Awareness & Care & Scientific skills.



## AUTUMN

**Title:** Spikey needs a shelter!

**Research topic:** Habitat and shelter – the local environment

**Exploration question:** What does a perfect hedgehog shelter look like?

**Duration:** Two to three sessions of approximately 60 minutes each

**Links to Irish Primary School Social, Environmental and Scientific Curriculum:** Environmental Awareness & Care & Scientific skills.



## WINTER

**Title:** Keeping Spikey Safe!

**Research topic:** Protecting our environment

**Exploration question:** How can we protect the environment in which we live?

**Duration:** Two to three sessions of approximately 60 minutes each

**Links to Irish Primary School Social, Environmental and Scientific Curriculum:** Environmental Awareness & Care & Scientific skills.

