The animal kingdom

L’apprendimento contemporaneo di lingua e contenuti disciplinari incrementa la motivazione all’uso della lingua straniera.

Sorting animals
Divide the class into groups and give each group the name of one of these categories: Invertebrates; Fish; Amphibians; Reptiles; Birds; Mammals. Invite each group to look through the flashcards and sort the animals according to the category. Then get the children to compare and discuss about the features that their animals have in common. Ask them to describe their animals in English using these suggestions:
- How many legs/ fins
- How they move: run/fly/jump/crawl/swim/slide
- Body covering: hairs/fur/wool/scales/feathers
- What they eat: herbivores/carnivores
- How they breathe: lungs/gills
- How they give birth: have babies/lay eggs
For each category make a poster using the appropriate vocabulary and invite each group to tell the class about the features of their animals.

Collecting Materials
For this lesson you need some animal pictures. Ask the children to look through magazines or use Clipart pictures. Stick the pictures on cardboard to make some flashcards.

A game: the buzzer
Divide the class into groups and give each one a sound to make: clap hands, stamp feet, click fingers, whistle…each sound has to be used as a buzzer to indicate that they know the answer.
Say the name of an adult animal; the group that uses their buzzer first can say the name of the baby. If the answer is correct, the group gets a point.

Assessment
Give each child the picture of an animal. Ask them to make an ID card (figura 1). Create a simple game entitled What am I?: a child chooses an ID, reads out the characteristics of the animal to another child who has to guess which animal it is. They have three chances to find out the identity of the animal. The children who get more correct can be awarded a cockade with EXPERT written on it.

Mothers and babies
Using animal pictures teach or revise the vocabulary for adult animals and their babies:
- Horse/foal
- Cow/calf
- Hen/chick
- Sheep/lamb
- Dog/puppy
- Cat/kitten
- Frog/tadpole
- Duck/duckling
Create some flashcards: on one side stick and write the name of the adult, on the other side the corresponding baby animal. Let the pupils play some flashcard games to memorise the names.