What living things need: answers and notes

What your child practised: naming what animals and plants need to stay alive (food, water, air, shelter, light and the right temperature). Year 2 science: living things and their habitats.

Page 1 · Warm up

Ring **water**, **food** and **air**. A ball, a toy car and a hat are nice to have, but nobody needs them to stay alive.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. The bird: seeds, berries or worms; puddles or a bird bath; air all around; a nest in a tree or hedge; its feathers keep it warm.

Page 2 · A. Match

water → the drop · food → the apple · air → the swirls · shelter → the burrow

Page 3 · B. Fill the gaps

1. **water** · 2. **food** · 3. **light** · 4. **air** · 5. **shelter**

Page 3 · C. What is missing?

Hamster: **water**. Plant: **light**. Bird: **shelter** (a safe place for its nest).

Challenge: No. Plants don't eat like animals, but they still need **light, water and air**, and the right temperature. They use light to make their own food. A plant kept in the dark or without water grows weak and dies.

Watch out for

- **Likes and needs mixed up.** Children may list toys or sweets. Ask: "Could you stay alive without it?"
- **"Plants eat soil."** Roots take in water, but plants make their own food using light.
- **Forgetting air.** We can't see it, so it gets missed. We all need air all the time.
- **Shelter means a house.** For animals it can be a burrow, a nest, a hole in a tree or the space under a log.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Need or like?** Name things (water, a bike, air, sweets). Your child says "need" or "like".
- **Pet or plant check:** name how each need of a pet or houseplant is met.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2, A habitat is a home, shows how a habitat gives animals and plants the food, water and shelter they need.