

## **Teacher & Parent Lesson Plan: Exploring the Seasons with Bob, Julie & the Musical Bugs**

**Age range:** 5–9 years

**Theme:** Seasons, nature, observation, creativity

**Story connection:** Dord’s mouse is named **Autumn**, reflecting her favourite season. The book’s garden scenes show a bright, lively **summer**, full of colour and busy bugs.

---

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this session, children will:

- Recognise the four seasons and describe key features of each.
  - Understand how plants, animals, and people adapt to seasonal changes.
  - Make connections between the seasons and the world shown in *Bob & Julie and the Musical Bugs*.
  - Express ideas creatively through movement, sound, and art.
- 

### **1. Introduction: Autumn the Mouse**

Begin by introducing **Autumn**, Dord’s mouse.

#### **Talking points:**

- Why might someone choose “Autumn” as a name?
- What colours or feelings do children associate with autumn?
- Look at the garden scenes in the book:  
*What clues tell us it’s summer?*  
(Sunshine, bright flowers, active bugs, green leaves.)

This gently anchors the lesson in the story world.

---

### **2. Seasons Circle Activity**

Create four areas labelled **Spring**, **Summer**, **Autumn**, and **Winter**.

#### **Instructions:**

- Call out a season.

- Children move to that area and act out something typical of that season.

**Examples:**

- Spring: growing like a flower
- Summer: buzzing like a musical bug
- Autumn: swirling like falling leaves
- Winter: curling up like a hibernating mouse

This supports physical development, imagination, and seasonal understanding.

---

 **3. Creative Task: Seasonal Mouse Houses**

Children design a cosy home for a mouse in each season.

**Materials:** paper, crayons, natural materials, tissue paper, cotton wool.

**Seasonal prompts:**

- **Spring:** flowers, raindrops, new growth
- **Summer:** sunshine, tall grass, musical bugs
- **Autumn:** leaves, warm colours, acorns
- **Winter:** snow, stars, blankets

This activity encourages fine motor skills and creative thinking.

---

 **4. Musical Bugs Sound Exploration**

Link to the musical theme of the book.

Assign each season a sound inspired by nature or bugs:

- Spring: gentle tapping (rain)
- Summer: buzzing and humming
- Autumn: rustling leaves
- Winter: soft wind

**Extension for older children:**

Create short “season soundscapes” in small groups.

This supports auditory learning and teamwork.

---

## 5. Nature Detective Challenge

Use the outdoors if possible; otherwise, provide seasonal objects or images.

**Children search for clues** that reveal the season:

- Flowers or buds
- Fallen leaves
- Insects
- Bare branches
- Shadows or sunlight

### **Story link:**

“What clues in Bob & Julie’s garden tell us it’s summer?”

This builds observation skills and connects fiction to real life.

---

## 6. Reflection & Personal Connection

Invite children to imagine:

**“If you had a pet mouse like Dord, what season would *your* mouse be named after?”**

They can:

- Draw their mouse
- Write a short description
- Share with the group

This encourages self-expression and confidence.

---