Practical Title: Mammal Gestation Card Sort

Focus and Principles: Card sorts as a means to encourage pupils' Higher Order Thinking

Equipment: A set of 8-16 cards for each pair/small group of pupils, from the examples provided, ensuring that each set includes animals of a range of sizes.

Suggested pupil group size: 2-3

Further instructions:

- Ask the pupils to arrange the cards in order of length of gestation period.
- Ask the pupils to discuss their observations with each other as they order the cards.
- Ask the pupils where human beings would be placed in their card sort.
- Facilitate a whole class discussion to share observations and patterns.
- Pupils could use the cards to plot suitable graphs e.g. gestation periods against height or weight. Is height or weight a better predictor of gestation period?
- Pupils could make predictions for the gestation periods of animals not included in their sets (or where the gestation period is removed or blanked out), based on height/weight information from the cards.
- Are there any anomalies – examples of animals which don't fit the general pattern? Pupils could consider possible reasons for these anomalies.
- Pupils could research the reasons why mammal gestation periods vary.

Possible learning objectives:

- To understand that mammal gestation periods vary
- To use data/information to identify patterns and support reasoning
- To plot suitable graphs and use them to support conclusions
- To use secondary sources to find things out

Health & Safety:
Teachers always need to risk assess practical activities for their children and defer to their health and safety advisor for the most up-to-date source of health and safety guidance. This training cannot be relied upon as source of health & safety guidance.