

Going on a literacy hunt!

To celebrate International Literacy Day on 8 September 2021 why not involve the children in a literacy hunt?

Learning aims

- Babies and younger children to notice and engage with sounds and images within their environment
- Children to notice and respond to familiar sounds in the environment
- Begin to recognise pictures, symbols and familiar logos
- Participate in exciting stories and listen with interest
- Begin to understand that print carries meaning
- Develop phonological and phonemic awareness and begin to recognise some familiar letters

Resources

- You could go on a literacy hunt with no resources – just staff, children and your senses!
- Depending on if you are doing a sound or logo hunt, you could create a checklist of things to find. This could include logos or things that they might hear to tick off when they find them
- You could take a recording machine to record all the different sounds you hear.

Activity Outline

1. Talk to the children about going on a 'sound/logo hunt', ask them to listen to what sounds they can hear. It may be other children playing, cars or birds. Show them some popular logos that they may recognise (supermarket and food logos are usually the best!)
2. Go into the nursery garden or even better arrange a walk in your local surroundings. Ask the children to take their listening ears! You may also like to produce some sound/logo checklists and take these on a clipboard
3. During outdoor play or the walk ask the children what they can hear or see. If you use the checklist tick these off or add new ones that you may come across
4. Recap what you have seen or heard when you get back to the setting
5. Share information with families so they too can do this at home. Talk to them about how differentiating between sounds and recognising logos positively impacts early reading/literacy skills.

Extending the activity

- Play other sound games in the setting. You could use bought ones or play activities like hiding instruments in a cardboard box and asking the children to guess which one it was
- Read popular stories and rhymes and then hide some familiar characters from the story in your outdoor area for the children to find
- For older children when they are ready, you could go on a letter hunt. Take a cut out or 3D letter from the child's name (one they can handle). Hunt around the setting to find anything that has their letter in it.



Special considerations

Any outings must be risk assessed and tighter ratios considered.