

Disclaimer: Activities with children must always be risk assessed, including for allergies or choking. Children must always have adequate supervision. Resources and materials must always be appropriate for children's age and stage of development.

Activity: Sound story adventure

The ability to listen to and produce sounds is the foundation of communication.

This interactive activity focuses on identifying and producing sounds through collaborative storytelling and supports children to develop the fundamental skills that will underpin their literacy journey.



Learning aims

- Listening skills – auditory discrimination supporting children to distinguish between different sounds
- Phonemic awareness - the ability to notice, think about and manipulate individual sounds
- Self-expression – in a fun, non-judgemental environment
- Oral motor skills – articulation, including tongue and lip movements
- Social interaction – listening to others, turn-taking.

Resources

- Books with characters/objects that make distinctive sounds
- A comfortable space.

Activity outline

1. Choose books which have:
 - a. Characters/objects that make distinctive sounds e.g. animals, natural elements, vehicles, musical instruments e.g. I hear you, forest by Kallie George and Carmen Mok
 - b. Items/activities which produce words that mimic sounds like whoosh, bang, clang, crunch, boing etc such as Zeki rise and shine by Anna McQuinn or We're going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen
2. Create a safe and supportive environment where children feel encouraged to experiment with their voices. You may need to model making sounds, especially for more abstract or less familiar animals/objects. Model the tone of the sound, such as by making sounds soft, quiet, loud, undulating etc.
3. Ask the children if they can tell you what sound a particular animal makes (cat, dog, cow or something else familiar). After a few familiar sounds ask them to make the sound of something more abstract such as the wind, trees, rain or a pebble falling to the ground etc. Offer praise to those who participate and/or contribute ideas

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4. Share one of the books and explain that the focus is on the sounds made by the characters, objects, weather etc.
5. Read the story and pause at points where the children can make or mimic sounds e.g. the squeak of a mouse, the splash of a raindrop or the rustle of leaves
6. Introduce an element of creativity by asking the children to invent their own sounds for imaginary creatures or objects.

Extension ideas

- Sound hunt: Take the children on a hunt for sounds indoors and/or outdoors. Encourage them to identify and then imitate the sounds e.g. footsteps, birdsong, cars, doors closing etc.
- Listen and match: Record the children making one of the sounds, print a photo of the corresponding animal or object and encourage the children to match the picture to the sound
- Sound chant: Ask each child to make a sound. In a small group, children take turns making a sound to produce a group sound chant.

Special considerations

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NDNA products to support you with this activity:

- [Communication and Language Champions](#)