

Listening walk



This is a wonderful way to get children thinking about the different sounds they hear around them.

How to do it

Tell the children you're going on a listening walk. Explain that everyone must listen very carefully to the sounds they can hear around them. Let the children walk for a while and then stop. Ask them to be very quiet and still. Get them to say what they can hear.

Describing sounds

Help the children find words to describe what they can hear.

- Cars and lorries driving on the road (brmm, brmm).
- The wind blowing (whoosh).
- People talking (chatter, chatter), and so on . . .

Depending on where you walk, the sounds might be very different. So make sure you walk in a range of settings – the park, the shopping centre, the sports ground, and so on.

Back at base

When you return home or get back to the classroom, make the sounds and see if the children remember what they stand for. 'What does brmm, brmm stand for?' Alternatively, ask them to describe what the wind, for example, sounds like (whoosh).

You can play an online version of this game on www.communicationcookbook.org.uk



Variations

1. Make a listening map of the walk. Help the children draw a rough map of your route. Get them to draw things that represent the sounds they heard at various points.
2. Use your mobile or a tape recorder to record the sounds you hear at your stopping points. Replay them and see if the children can name the sounds.
3. Take a checklist with you and see how many of the sounds the children hear on their walk. Here are some items for a checklist.
 - Cars ● Insects ● Bells ● Voices ● Door slamming ● Buzzers

Day to day

Whenever you are out and about, or even in the house, play this game of listening for sounds and working out what they are.

As children get better at listening, they can pick out quiet or subtle differences between sounds.



'I can hear loads of different sounds when I walk to school.'