



Essential letters and sounds (FS1) *Element 1 – Environmental sounds*

Why is this important?

- To develop children's listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment.
- Further development of vocabulary and children's identification and recollection of differences between sounds.
- To make up simple sentences and talk in greater detail about sounds.



How can you help at home?

- Sound walks – ask your child what they can hear in different places.
 - *For example: 'Can you hear that chirping sound? I think that is a bird.'*
- Ask your children questions about where they may have heard the sounds before.
- Encourage your children to experiment with making their own sounds using natural materials. For example:
 - *Tapping a stick*
 - *Scraping a rock*
- Describe sounds around you and ask the children to locate them.
 - *For example: 'I can hear a drip-drip sound. Where could that be?'*
- Talking about your child's favourite sound/s.
- Mimicking sounds heard in the environment and encouraging your child to copy (animal noises etc.)
- Nature sounds – encourage your child to sound and move like something.
 - *For example: 'Can you sound and move like the wind?'*
- Discussing if a sound is loud or quiet.
- Reading stories frequently to your child. You could ask them simple questions about parts of the story. For example:
 - *The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson – 'That's a mouse. What sounds does a mouse make? Squeak squeak!'*
- What's that sound? – Play different sounds and ask your child what has made the sound. For example:
 - *A dog barking – 'What is this sound? What animal might have made it?'*