

# Baby owls

Familiar stories provide opportunities for children to understand the natural world. This activity brings the story of 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell alive. This story and related activities will help children to become familiar with the concept of nocturnal animals.

Children will become aware of the bird life in the nature reserve and of the similarities and differences between birds and where they nest.

## Resources

- Book 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell
- Owl hoot whistle and soft toys (basket of resources available on request)
- Tarpaulin, cushions and blankets or logs to sit on

## Activity

The children will need to be familiar with the story before they visit. As you come into the nature reserve take time for a listening moment. Depending on the time of year the children may hear bird song and bird calls and wind blowing through the trees. Looking around them they may see birds flying above them or in the trees. There are lots of bird boxes to spot, notice they differ because different birds need different bird boxes. A visit to one of the bird hides will provide further opportunities for observing birds.

If weather permits find a quiet place to sit for a story. Otherwise use the village hall. Talk about the birds they have seen but that there are others that wake up at night. Introduce the children to an owl call. Read the story using the basket of visual aids and add branches and ivy on the day.

## Follow up

- Create an environment for imaginative play where the children can take on the roles of the owls.
- Create a bird hide from a large cardboard carton, provide binoculars, note pads, bird books and charts etc. Put up a bird box in the outdoor area. Make bird feeders with pinecones, lard and bird feed and hang in the outdoor area.

Visit [CVCg.org.uk](http://CVCg.org.uk) for more activity sheets and information about our nature reserve

