

Listening maps

This activity encourages children to experience the nature reserve through the sense of sound and to make them aware of sounds in a natural environment.

Resources

- Circle of thin card for each child approximately 20cm diameter and something to lean on, e.g. a clip board
- Pencil

Activity

- Gather children to explain the task and indicate the area they can work within. Perhaps say as far as that tree or that gate or use bags as markers.
- Children go and find a space and then shut their eyes for a few moments to begin to tune in to the sounds around them.
- Then they begin to make a map of the sounds they can hear. Encourage them to use symbols for the sounds e.g. a wavy line for the sound of the wind through the trees or a beak for the sound of a woodpecker. The marks are placed to indicate where they have heard the sound.
- Children gather together again and in pairs share their sound maps.
- Read 'Goodnight Owl!', Pat Hutchins (see **Early Years activity 6**).

Follow up

- Play the sound map game in the school playground. Think about the different sounds heard at school and out in the countryside. Set up a listening area and think about how to use symbols to represent sounds. Begin to explore maps and think about the symbols used on a map.

Visit CVCg.org.uk for more activity sheets and information about our nature reserve

