

Make a sound garden

Expression and creativity are provided through sensory activities and play.

Make a sound garden so children can explore the sounds of different objects. Keep in mind that a sound garden is all about the process, not the end product.

Here are some ideas to help create different sounds in your outdoor space.

- String pans, pots and cartons up on rope between two fence posts, on trees, on fences or on walls. Provide children with resources such as wooden sticks and metal spoons to bang and clash off of the pots and pans
- Press recycled cans of varying shapes and sizes into the grass at different levels which can be used as drums.
- Fill recycled plastic bottles filled with pebbles, sand, water and other objects for children to shake
- Fill recycled glass bottles with varying amounts of water and supervise children as they blow into the top of the bottle or hit these gently with a spoon. Adding water to the bottle dampens the vibrations created by striking the glass with a spoon. The less water in the bottle, the faster the glass vibrates and the higher the pitch. The more water you add to the bottle, the slower the glass vibrates, creating a lower pitch
- Provide rigged plastic piping such as a recycled washing machine waste pipe to make a scraper block which can be rasped with a stick
- Make a variety of wind chimes;
 - Bamboo Chimes - cut bamboo of different lengths adding a hole an inch from one end and hang these together from string
 - Button Chimes – tie a range of buttons on the string and hang these from a solid object such as a plastic carton lid
 - Seaside Chimes – attach seashells to lengths of string or cord from a branch or a piece of driftwood
 - Chain Chimes – attach a range of different chains of varying length and weight from a metal coat hanger
 - Key Chimes – hang a range of keys at the same length so they clash together in the wind
 - Spoon Chimes – attach a range of spoons from trees at similar lengths close together.

Help the children to talk about what they can hear and help them to notice differences and similarities in the sounds they can hear. Talk about pitch (the degree of highness or lowness of a sound) and ask children to discover which resources make high pitched sounds and which make low pitched sounds.

One of the simplest things you can do is encourage children to listen to the sounds of nature. Rustling leaves, wildlife sounds, the sounds that different weather types create – the list is endless.

Encourage children to lie down in a safe space in the garden, close their eyes and quietly listen. What can they hear? Ask them to describe what they can hear and what they think is making the sound.

Children can also use an audio recorder to record some of the sounds they make or sounds they hear and they can share these with others.