



Early years

# A sound walk



## Overview

Exploring different sounds and how they are made is a valuable experience for young children which gives them a greater awareness of the properties of materials and extends their descriptive vocabulary.

This activity allows interactions with a variety of surfaces to support this awareness through sensory play and exploration.

## Equipment

- A park or local greenspace with a variety of railings, steps, trees, or other landscape features.
- A selection of small sticks – one each.
- A recording device (optional).

## Activity

1. Explore the area, identifying interesting features to test and setting boundaries.
2. Demonstrate ‘tapping’ things rather than ‘hitting’ them.
3. Allow children to explore what sounds they can discover by tapping different materials with their sticks. Practice with different strengths of ‘tap’ to see how the sound changes.
4. Experiment on a variety of surfaces and record the sounds on a device to revisit later.

## Check for understanding

1. What sounds did you discover?
2. How would you describe the sound? (Clanging, bright, rattling, soft, dull?)
3. Why are some sounds different?
4. Can you make a new sound on the same item just by changing how hard you tap it?

## Learning and play outcomes

<b>Play types</b>	Creative – allowing free play to explore a range of sensory experiences.
	Exploratory – making connections between surfaces and their properties.
<b>Motor skills</b>	Fine motor skills will be developed by controlling the strength of their tapping and manipulating the stick as a beater.
<b>Literacy and Maths</b>	Use this activity to develop descriptive vocabulary.
	Count the beats and create repeating patterns though rhythms.
<b>Self – directed learning</b>	Leave out a range of stick beaters and some materials with varying properties (wood, metal, stone etc.) Allow children to choose what tools they use and to experiment with the sounds created on different surfaces. Provide some tuned percussion or bamboo tubes to extend their interest.

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: [ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training](http://ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training)