It's Not a Stick

Overview

Nature and natural materials provide rich tools to explore speech and language. Learning new vocabulary in context can help children make sense of their world.



Activities

Read, 'It's Not a Stick' by Antoinette Portis. Encourage children to explore the garden and choose their favourite stick. You may have twigs and sticks already in your outdoor space, but if not, you can gather some on walks or provide a selection to scatter across your garden. Use the repeated phrase from the book to encourage children to role play, tell stories, and begin to develop imagination, 'It's not a stick, it's a...? ' Celebrate and elaborate on their ideas.

Equipment

- 'Not a Stick' picture book by Antoinette Portis
- A selection of sticks, twigs and interesting, gnarly bits of wood.

Key Questions

'It's not a stick, it's a ...?'
Why did you pick this stick?
What else could it be/do?
Where did you find it?What happens next?

The Benefits

- Play – Imaginative play, role play, rough and tumble play.
- Literacy – Talking, listening, telling stories and sharing ideas.

Progression in Learning

- Explore other narratives with sticks ('Stick Man', 'Stanley's Stick').
- Encourage collaborative play between children by introducing and combining their ideas with their sticks.