Noisy Nature

Overview

Natural environments provide an exciting context to explore speech and language. Give children opportunities to use their voices in new and interesting ways outdoors.



Activities

Using our voices in outdoor spaces can help develop confidence in speaking. Choose a well-known nursery rhyme, such as Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, then find a space outdoors where you won't disturb others. Recite the rhyme with children using whisper voices, speaking voices and yelling at the tops of their lungs. Being allowed to shout loudly is a rare joy for children and it can be lots of fun. Try this in different areas to see how the sound changes.

Equipment

- A suitable space where no one will mind you being noisy!
- A conductor stick (optional).

Key Questions

Can you whisper it?
Can you shout it out?
How loud can you go?
How quiet can you go?
Does the sound change here?

The Benefits

- Play – Playing with acoustics, dynamics and learning the limits of our voices.
- Literacy – Rhyming, rhythms, repetition and patterns of speech.

Progression in Learning

- Use your arm or a stick to 'conduct' the children. Stick held high means loud voices, stick down low means whisper voices. You could play with the speed as well as the sound to add complexity.
- Set up a performance area to encourage children to play with sounds.