



Activities at Home

Dear Parents,

The activity for week 11 beginning 16th November is: My Marvellous Ears

The activity that we will be covering involves:

- Today we will be conducting a simple Science experiment that allows children to understand how sound travels into our ears in waves. They will work in pairs, using a wire coat hanger and some string.
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Our activity includes:

- Firstly, we will talk about our ears and the special job that they do. The children will be encouraged to think about why it is so important that we are able to hear-for example, how it is important to be able to hear people warning us if we are in danger, how it is important to be able to listen to other children and adults to know what we should do or say next, or how it is important to be able to hear noises in our surroundings such as cars or trains so we know where we should stand or walk to stay our safest. Teachers will use sustained shared thinking throughout this to encourage children to build up their own ideas of why it is important to be able to hear things as this is more likely to become concrete learning.
 - We will then talk about how these different sounds travel into our ears. The children will watch the following short clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-xKZKxXuu0> , using bells, chimes and other musical instruments to demonstrate vibrations before conducting a simple experiment! The children will work in pairs, with one child wrapping two pieces of string attached to a wire coat hanger around their index fingers, which they will then gently place in their ears. Their partner will then hit the coat hanger with a metal instrument. They can see the coat hanger vibrating and the sound should travel up the wire and into their ears. The children will then swap over. The children will have opportunities to swap over a few times, before coming back together to discuss their findings!
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You might wish to help your child to explore this topic at home or when you are out and about. Please feel free to approach the teachers for further explanations. Our suggested activities are:

- If you walk to school, or if you are out and about on a walk, encourage them to think about the different sounds that they can hear-for example the crunching of leaves underneath their feet, the sounds of the traffic, the sound of the wind if it is blowing or the rain if it is raining. Can they hear their footsteps on the ground? Are their footsteps the same as yours or their siblings, or are they different? If you take a stroller or a buggy with you on your walk, can they hear the wheels rotating on the pavement? Can they hear any animals? Maybe they pass some panting dogs, hear some bird calls or wing flutters? Perhaps they can hear a squirrel scampering up a tree?
- Take opportunities to extend your child's sensory language, for example asking them to describe different sounds that they hear-is it loud or quiet? Is it gentle? Do they like the sound? Why/why not? You can extend their language by offering different words for those that they offer-for example if they comment on a sound being "noisy", you may wish to extend the description by saying "Yes, it's very loud isn't it? It sounds like crashing!"

