

Teaching ideas

Sound Starters

Phonics learning opportunities

To develop listening skills.

To describe sounds and talk about the differences between them.

To know a range of words that can be used to describe sounds.

Organisation

Whole class, small group or 1:1.

Teaching ideas

Click on a bubble at random to hear different sound effects.

Ask the children to attempt to imitate the sound with their voices.

Ask the children to try to describe the sound.

Gradually introduce new words for describing sounds. E.g. loud, quiet, slow, fast, long, short, fierce, rough, squeaky, smooth, bumpy, high, low, wobbly. It can help children to become familiar with these words if you accompany them with actions and/or pictures (e.g. squeaky - use fingers to make mouse whiskers; wobbly - shake all over like jelly).

You may want to begin by giving the children a choice of words - was that sound loud or quiet / rough or smooth etc.

Shaking things up

Try playing two sounds one after the other. Ask the children to talk the differences between the two sounds. Ask children to copy each sound with their voices.

Tell the children that you are going to play three different sounds and ask them to listen out for the sound that is most smooth (or any other descriptive word you choose). Play the three sounds and ask the children to talk about which sound they thought sounded most smooth. Play the three sounds again and ask children to put their hand up when you play the smoothest sound.

Carry out the same activities but using sounds that can be made by instruments / objects in the classroom.

There are many free sound effects available on the internet. Just google to find them.

Listen to a sound effect and discuss how it makes you feel. Is it exciting, scary, sad, happy, lonely? Try drawing a picture of the sound. Try making up a story or poem based on the sound.

