

Supporting your child's learning at home

Recently at ACE Day Nursery:

We have been playing and exploring with our sound box. The sound box game is a great activity for children to learn how to 'tune in' and be able to identify environmental sounds. It encourages children to focus on having 'good listening ears', which is one of our golden rules and can help support aspects of your daily routine at home too.

The children like to listen and then have a turn at making the sound themselves. If you use the sound box with siblings or friends, it becomes a good game to encourage children to master the skill of turn taking.



For you to try at home:

To create a sound box you will need a small box and a piece of material (like a large tea towel) which will lie over the top of the box concealing the contents.

For the items inside you could collect any household items that create a range of sounds for example:

- old door keys
- empty crisp packet
- bangles or a chain
- stop watch or egg timer
- baby rattle
- small amount of rice in a taped up yoghurt pot
- small musical instrument
- pebbles or large stones to rub together
- toy aeroplane or other vehicle and make the sound to go with it



When you are ready to play, find somewhere reasonably quiet and sit down together with the box in front of you. Encourage your child/ren to focus on having their good 'listening ears'; you could use the hand gesture here to show them, by placing your hands behind your ears.

Then make one of sounds from under the material. It takes longer than you might think for a child to make sense of what they have heard; play the sound a few times, wait and then ask them what they think that sound might be.

With a younger child the joy is listening to different sounds and discussing the difference - not necessarily identifying what the sound is.

Have fun with your new sound box!

If you really love it (which we're sure you will) remember you can change or add some new items to your box to create different sounds.

