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Activity: **Exploring Sounds in the Garden**

Two activities that promote compensatory skills, and self determination through listening.

**Target Areas:**

Compensatory skills: Auditory awareness

Career Education: Pre- literacy skills

Orientation and Mobility: Directional awareness

Self determination: Creating own music, sounds and patterns

**1. Parent - Child Sound Map: A Listening Activity**

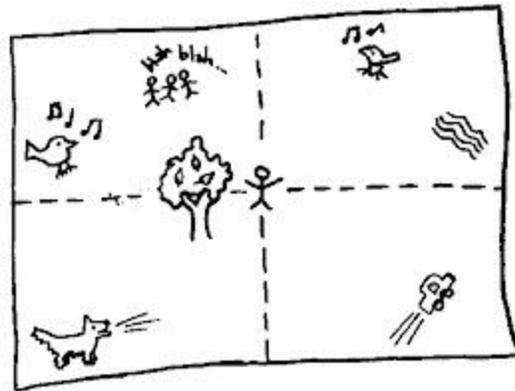
Sitting quietly and listening to the soothing voices of nearby trees, birds, and rustling grasses calms us and deepens our appreciation for the life around us. Sitting outside and listening to nature benefits us through improved relaxation and attention, improved sleep and increased feelings of positivity.

*What You Need:*

- Paper
- Clipboard, tablet or something to write on
- Something to write with like a pencil or pen

*Directions:*

1. Find a comfortable spot to sit outdoors and have your child face you so you can read his or her facial cues.
2. Mark an "X" in the center of the paper. This shows your child on the map.
3. Have your child listen quietly for at least one minute. Listen for sounds from animals, birds, people and other activities.
4. Keep listening, but now draw pictures or symbols on the map representing all the sounds your child hears, and where they are coming from. Your child may tell you what they hear, verbalize a sound, look in the direction



of the sound, it was or get really still as they listen to the sound. Mark all sound observations on your map about what you think they are hearing. Make each mark a symbol to what you hear so you can refer back to it later. For example a bird might be a triangle for a beak, a car is a circle for the wheel, a child playing might be a stick figure,.

5. After a few minutes talk with your child about the map and all the different sounds you heard together and where they were coming from. For example, the car sound came from the street, the bird singing was in the tree above us, etc.

*Next Steps:*

- Create a “map key” together ahead of time with predetermined sound symbols.
- Have them count how many sounds they heard.
- Have them identify familiar sounds and new sounds they heard.
- Have them tell you the directions the sounds came from.
- Have your child create their own map and make their own marks on the page.
- Have the whole family complete a map and then compare your maps.

*Dive Deeper:*

- What would happen if you sat somewhere else? In the mountains, park, by a river, etc.
- What would be different at another time of day? Another season?
- What sound did you like best? Why?

\*\*Adapted from Texas Parks and Wildlife Kids

[https://tpwd.texas.gov/kids/explore/sound\\_map.phtml](https://tpwd.texas.gov/kids/explore/sound_map.phtml)

## **2. Garden Sound Board: A Sound Creation Activity**

Musical play opens up options to experiment with sound and work on a child’s ability to listen. Install a sound board into your outdoor space and inspire children to explore musical sounds, experiment with rhythm, learn how to count and perform music together. Children with hearing difficulties may be able to sense vibrations and so should always be encouraged to participate too.



Go through your garage, closets and kitchen cabinets. Gather metal pots, pans, spoons, bowls, metal rods, chimes, and anything else that might create a neat sound. Think about adding items with hollow sounds, loud and soft sounds, different textures, and different mallets to drum on the equipment. Attach materials to a wood pallet, chicken wire or peg board. Be mindful to keep the height kid friendly. Place in your yard. Be as creative as you want! Below are some ideas from pinterest.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/358106607845931579/>