Children develop a bond with sparrows – one of our most common resident birds – through storytelling.

Sparrow in a Spot 1



Keywords

observation • indoors • outdoors • storytelling • recall and create • Maltese

1. Introducing Sparrows
Show the children the "*Sparrow pictures*" from the Downloadable Materials. Ask if they have ever seen one and what they know about it. Expand the discussion to different bird habitats, showing photos and asking where sparrows might live. This builds background knowledge.

2. Sparrow Spotting Outdoors
Take the children into the schoolyard to look for sparrows (check beforehand for the best time/place). Give them simple binoculars (toy or real) to make birdwatching more interactive. Observe the sparrows together and talk about what they are doing. Add a movement activity, invite the children to “fly” around the yard, hopping and flapping like sparrows. Inspire reflection with questions like:

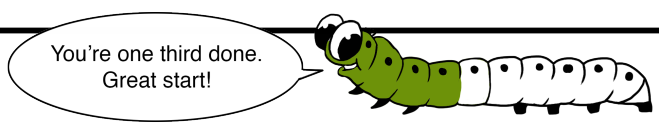
“What do you think it feels like to fly like a bird?” (and discuss how sparrows differ from pets.)

3. Storytime with Sparrows
Find a quiet outdoor spot, ideally where sparrows can be seen in the background. Set out cushions and read "Little Ċips / Ċips iż-Żgħir" (Downloadable Material). Use visuals as prompts. They can be projected or printed as pics-on-sticks (you can dowload the "*Story cards*" from the Downloadable Materials). Add sparrow calls with a speaker to make the storytelling more immersive.

4. Interactive Storytelling
Pause while reading to ask questions, animate the story, and add bird sounds. Encourage children to imitate sparrows and listen to real ones nearby for inspiration.

5. Creating Story Props
Back in class, or outdoors with materials, invite children to work in groups to make story-related items:

- Nests (plastic tubs with shredded paper);
- Eggs (scrunched paper balls);
- Chicks (cotton wool with eyes).



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They can also gather natural materials like leaves, twigs, or grass for nest-building. Place everything into a “story bag.” When revisiting the story, children can retell it by pulling out the props in order. This develops memory and language skills.

6. Reflecting on Sparrow Life
Conclude by asking reflective questions, such as:

“What do baby sparrows need to grow?”

“What was the most interesting thing you noticed about sparrows today?” (This deepens understanding and connects their experiences to real-life nature.)

Send photos of

- ☐ Children outdoors birdwatching
- ☐ Children creating sparrow props
- ☐ Children listening to and animating story
- ☐ story bag contents.

Resources & Equipment Needed

- Thick card;
- Sticks;
- Binoculars real or toy;
- Plastic tubes;
- Shredded paper;
- Scrunched paper balls;
- Cotton wool;
- Eyes for chicks (felt, paper, or googly eyes);
- Story bag.

