



Children experience
nature's voices first hand.



Nature's Voice

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Keywords **outing • sensory investigation • creative music**

- 1 This activity is best suited for spring. The children will hear and feel nature's voices and compose a symphony. If you have a green space in your school large enough for children to feel surrounded by nature, use it. If not, visit a woodland, e.g. Buskett. Or book a visit to Il-Bosk with BirdLife Malta.
- 2 Buy a set of children's stethoscopes. These will come in handy for all sorts of learning journeys (some websites have good prices, e.g. Aliexpress). Familiarise the children with the stethoscope. You may link other topics to this, but to connect it to this activity you must include listening to each other's heartbeat and knowing that we are alive because of the 'voice' of our heart deep inside us. Prepare the children for an outing to listen to nature's voices by generating a sense of mystery.
- 3 Once on site, find a space among tall trees with at least 60cm circumference. On your way start the listening journey. Keep the children quiet and listening for sounds as they walk. Stop at several intervals and ask what they heard. Once under the trees, discuss the sounds you heard. Which were more numerous, nature or man-made sounds? Why? Which were loud? Which were soft? Through this the children should understand that if you are loud you will never hear nature's voices.
- 4 Speaking softly, 'tune' the children's ears to the various nature 'voices' around you. At every sound, urge the children to softly imitate it.
- 5 Activity climax! Ask the children whether they think trees are alive (they should be aware of this from earlier Dinja Wahda activities). Ask how we know a person is alive. Say that we need to be absolutely quiet for the next voice: a tree drinking! Give each a stethoscope, then all go quiet and place stethoscope to a tree trunk. You may hear wood cracking, beetles inside and – most fascinating of all – a constant 'rushing' sound: the sap rising to the leaves! Make a big deal of this and get them excited. Tell them not everyone knows trees have voices because people are too noisy.
- 6 Create a symphony of nature's voices. Put children in twos or threes and ask each to choose a nature's voice from the ones you practised – don't forget the tree's heart! Record or video part of your symphony. You can use it later to make a short play for a school event, taking the audience through the children's learning journey, only this time they hear the children's symphony.

Use the Dinja Wahda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of

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| ☐ photos of children listening to nature sounds | ☐ an mp3/wav recording of Nature's Voices symphony |
| ☐ photos of children using stethoscopes to listen to trees. | |

