



Children become aware that animals have voices and use them for the same reasons we do.

# Nature's Voice 1



**Keywords**    discussion • sounds and listening • outdoors sensory • family

- 1 Start a discussion about pets. Ask those who have dogs, cats, etc. how they know when pets are hungry/happy/annoyed/in pain, etc. Ask them to imitate sounds their pet makes to show these emotions. Expand the discussion to other animals the children may know of and have fun imitating voices. Ask if they think animals are like us. Make a link with our voices.
- 2 Play the *Animal Sounds* sound clips (Downloadable Material) and see if the children can guess what animal is making them (answers in the **Resource File**). Let them imitate the animal sounds and talk about them, be creative and use adjectives to describe sound.
- 3 Listen to the recording again and focus on pattern. Take one, e.g. robin, and count through the pattern in such a way that the children notice the rhythm. A robin calling *tick-tick ... ti-tick-tick-tick*, would translate into: "One-two ... One-two-three-four." A Sardinian warbler calling *ch-ch-ch-ch-ch* would translate into: "One-two-three-four-five." Make links with number sequences, visual patterns if you like, and other representations of patterns.
- 4 Go outside and listen for bird song. In winter you should hear robins, Sardinian warblers, sparrows, maybe white wagtails.

Help the children single out birdsong from the din of man-made noises. Let them become aware of living things other than humans – this awareness will hopefully stay with them into adulthood and will make them consider other forms of life when making choices.

- 5 When sparrows come together they make a different collective sound, as individual chirps are drowned out. Show how the same happens to human voices: get one child to say a sound repeatedly, then two, and so on till you have a classful. Give the children listening homework: in winter sparrows gather in large numbers to sleep in trees in town squares. Find out if your town has such a place from the *Where Sparrows Go To Sleep* map (**Resource File**). If so, ask the children to get their parents to take them there some afternoon (around 4.30–5.30pm) to watch and listen to sparrows coming in to sleep. Ask them to think of words that describe the sound when they are there.

- 6 After a week or two's chance for the children to hear sparrows at a roost with their family, play *Sparrow Talk* sound clips (Downloadable Material) and let the children try and guess which is the one of sparrows roosting.

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

Send photos of children

- ☐ listening and reacting to sounds in class
- ☐ listening to bird sound outside.

