

Outdoor Learning Experiences (Birth to 2 years)

<p>Learning experience: I Can Listen with My Ears</p>	<p>Shared by: D K Gowri</p>
<p>Environment: This activity can be done where there are spaces for a string to be tied between one plant / tree to another or one structure to another.</p>	<p>Estimated time: 15 to 20 minutes (lesser or more depending on the tolerance and quality active engagement of infant)</p>
<p>Children’s prior experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants would need to be comfortable outdoors. They would need to be able to walk, walk with assistance or carried by educarers. • Educarers to be aware of infants and toddlers who may be hypersensitive to loud sounds, to moderate and manage accordingly. 	<p>Suitable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 – 17 months old (mobile infant)
<p>What children will experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants will observe and see the cause and effect of movement and sound. • Infants will have the opportunity to listen to the different sounds that are produced by the different materials around them and feel a sense of autonomy in producing sounds. • Infants will have the opportunity to experience the movements of the large muscles of the arms, legs, and torso when manoeuvring their bodies and using their hands and arms to stretch up and hit the various objects with varying intensity to explore force. • Infants will develop balance and co-ordination by maintaining stability whilst hitting the objects. • Infants will develop spatial awareness and hand-eye coordination. 	<p>EYDF Pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Intentional Programme • The Professional Educarer • The Involved Family • The Engaged Community • The Developing Child
<p>What you will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • String / yarn • Items from the natural environment such as bunches of leaves, a string of twigs • Washing boards -wooden 	<p>Benefit - Risk Assessment:</p> <p><u>Benefit:</u></p>

- Wooden or plastic chopping boards
- Pans of different sizes and materials – these can be contributed by parents
- Spoons of different materials – wooden, metal, plastic

- Engage the sensory system to trigger neural connections, which is conducive for complex cognitive development.
- Various movements/activities will aid balance and coordinate with their nervous system.
- Observe and experience cause and effect.
- Freedom to repeat behaviours, and skills that they have learned to promote mastery and confidence.
- Appreciation of natural materials and the diversity/individuality that those present, in terms of producing sounds.
- Observe movement of objects and their ‘buoyancy’ on air as they dangle. As infants and toddlers watch to aim, they begin to experience short spans of concentration and focus which are essential learning skills.
- Promote freedom of choice, movement, along with self-expression.

Risk:

- Infant and toddlers may sustain entangle their heads around the hanging strings.
- Ant and mosquito bites may be a concern.
- Infants and toddlers may knock themselves on the pots and sustain bruises.
- Infants and toddlers hit each other with the wooden spoons or objects provided.

Management:

- Ensure the ratio of adult and infant permits easy assistance.
- Engage parents’ approval and participation by getting sunscreen, insect repellents etc.

- Send an article or short memos highlighting the rationale for this activity.
- Engage parents providing materials for the activity.
- Leave the area available for infants and even toddlers to try with their parents.
- Photo document the learning journey with parents to educate and elicit partnership of parents in their infant and toddlers' learning journey.
- Ensure the strings are short and do not permit strangulation.
- Create various points to avoid overcrowding and the potential of hitting one another instead.

How to make it happen

Preparation:

- Prepare for the activity by tying the selected items to different lengths of strings.
- Tie one length of string / rope from two identified points, ensuring that it does not block any existing pathways.
- Hang the various items from the horizontal length of string.

Procedure:

Suggestion 1: Making sounds with a wooden spoon

1. Bring infant/toddlers for a walk towards the targeted areas.
2. Provide items such as small wooden spoons that infants and toddlers can use to hit on the objects to discover the sounds.
3. Expand this by providing spoons made of other materials (plastic, metal) to compare.

Suggestion 2: Making sounds with dried leaves or twigs.

1. Encourage infants and toddlers to try a range of objects from the natural environment that they could try to hit onto the hanging objects to create sound.
2. Educarers could accompany the various sounds with suitable jingles and rhymes.

3. Introduce words that describe sounds such as, “loud”, “soft”.
4. Draw attention to other natural sounds in the environment.
5. Encourage older toddlers to be quiet to listen to the sounds.