



I heard a Bird

By Rob Ramsden



Experience the sights and sounds of a garden in this final title from IN THE GARDEN; a series to introduce very young children to the natural world.

A little girl hears a bird which is frightened away by some cats fighting. As she searches for her bird, she encounters many other intriguing animals and insects. Then, after sitting down to listen to and enjoy the sounds of nature all around, suddenly her bird comes back!

UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD

This book is ideal for promoting opportunities to explore, observe and find out about the natural world and the environment around us. Why not encourage your little ones to observe different animals; how they feed, find shelter and perhaps even collaborate e.g. ants in their nests / colonies.



The book is full of the sounds we find in nature. The little girl can hear bees buzzing, cats meowing and leaves crinkling. Go on a sound walk in your local environment, what can you hear? Are they natural sounds or man-made?



EXPRESSIVE ARTS

The ideas here will support children to develop their art and design skills whilst at the same time learning to care for some of the wildlife on their doorstep – birds.

- make a bird bath
- make a bird feeder - you could use a juice carton for this or even make it out of lego / building blocks
- using natural materials, encourage children to make their own bird nests
- use feathers as paint brushes
- build a den or lookout - you could use sheets, sticks, pillows, cushions or a tent etc.



PERSONAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Incorporating learning about nature into the Early Years curriculum teaches many important concepts. Getting outside and learning about our environment can help children learn how they affect the environment as well as how the environment affects them.

Just as the little girl in this book does, encourage children to go on their own nature treasure hunt outside looking for leaves, seeds, twigs, feathers, snail shells, bark & other natural objects and to appreciate their findings.

MATHEMATICS

Natural materials are great resources for supporting and developing mathematical understanding in young children:

- pine cones can be used for classifying, sorting and counting
- leaves can be used to investigate shape and symmetry
- rocks can be measured and compared by weight or size
- photographs of animals can be used to explore line, pattern and shape



LITERACY

These ideas, inspired by 'I Heard A Bird', provide lots of opportunities for children to learn about the written word and to support them to understand that symbols carry meaning:

- label or describe the parts of a bird
- create a fact file about one of the animals the little girl sees in this book
- create an observation log of the wildlife you see in your own natural environment
- bring birds and their habitats to life with real photographs and non-fiction texts

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE & LITERACY

The start of phonics learning concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills. 'I heard A Bird' is ideal for promoting these skills. The aim at the beginning of learning to read (phonics) is to raise children's awareness of the sounds around them. Just as the little girl in this book does, you could go on your own listening walk, drum on different items outside and compare the sounds, play a sounds lotto game or make shakers and compare the sounds they make.