

Taking the Long Way Home

Jake Hope & Brian Fitzgerald

Normally Zarah and her brother are collected from school by their dad, who rushes them home taking every shortcut. But today Uncle Jerome is collecting them, and he takes 'The long way home'. Reluctant to go further than necessary at first, the children are soon caught up in amazing adventures, due to their uncle's sense of fun and imagination.



Go on a listening walk (supports Phase 1 phonics):

Encourage children to listen attentively to the sounds around them. Talk about the different sounds they can hear. The children could use 'cupped ears' or make big ears on headbands to wear as they go on the listening walk. Can they hear crunching leaves like Zarah and her brother? Can they hear the crows "caww-craawww"? After the children have enjoyed a listening walk, make a list of all the sounds they can remember. The list could be in words or pictures and even prompted by replaying sounds recorded on the walk!



Animal tracks

Zarah and her brother find a large footprint on their walk. You could use small world animals and paint to make your own artwork of animal tracks.



Nature walk

Go on a walk and collect natural objects on your way:

- pine cones, leaves, flowers and sticks.



A listening moment

Remind children how to be good listeners and invite them to show how good they are at listening by remembering all the sounds they hear when they listen for a moment. You could use a sand timer to show the passing of half a minute or a minute and then ask them what made each sound and encourage them to try to make the sound themselves.



Make a map

Zarah and her brother take the long route home with their Uncle Jerome - can you create a map of your route to and from school?



Travelling in different ways

"...BIG CAT, perhaps a lion or possibly a tiger. We'd better CREEP carefully. We PAD, softly, softly through the field."

Zarah, her brother and Uncle Jerome pretend they are creeping away from a big cat by padding softly. What other ways can you move outside?



Spotting flowers

Can you identify any flowers you spot on your walk. You could look at their colour, shape, and the arrangement of petals, sepals, stamens etc to help you. You could also sketch and paint them!



Spend time outdoors

Spending time outdoors can help children de-stress and relax, to regulate and become more present in the moment. Nature is a great tool for supporting our mental health and it is one that children can carry all the way into adulthood.

stomping

jumping

skipping

hopping