

TALK to me outside



THEME: Let's Get Moving (action words)

While giving children naming words for objects they are interested in is really helpful for language development, **action words** are important for children to become 'combiners'. In order to start combining words together and to create longer sentences, children need verbs! So, when we model using these words to children, we are extending their language development and supporting them to become great communicators.

What to do

- Whilst out on a walk, encourage the children to move like lots of different animals or people. Use lots of action words as they move so that they hear you modelling good language. Some movements you could try are:
 - Wiggle like a worm
 - Stomp like a dinosaur
 - Slither like a snake
 - Fly like a butterfly
 - Sting like a bee
 - Hop like a bunny/kangaroo/frog
- Play follow the leader - ask each child to do an action and everyone has to copy e.g. clap, wave, skip, hop, jump. When you talk about what it is they're doing, children will learn the word that goes with the action. The activity will also support children's turn taking skills!

If you're happy and you know it:

Change the action words for each verse of this song - shout hooray, stamp your feet, shake around.

*If you're happy and you know it clap your hands,
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands,
If you're happy and you know it and you really want to
show it,
If you're happy and you know it clap your hands.*

Jump and Shout by Mike Dumbleton

Clap, cheer, we're going out! Walk, run, jump and shout! A group of toddlers and little children go out to play at the park and have a fantastic time swinging from monkey bars, being pushed in the swing, playing football and enjoying a delicious picnic lunch. Great for reinforcing those action words.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7xx64ZweW0>

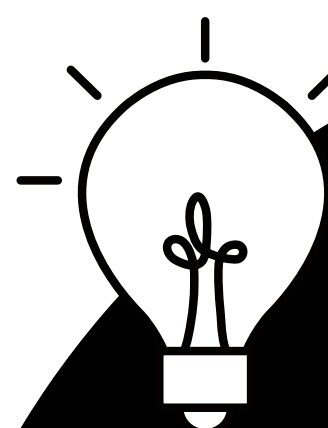


Step up and make it more challenging

- Ask the older children to show you how to:
 - Glide like an alligator
 - Squirm like a caterpillar
 - Move like someone going into cold water/hot water
 - Sink like someone walking in mud or quick sand
 - Creep like a detective or a spy
 - Waddle like a penguin
 - Walk like they're carrying something really heavy

You can use much more complex action words with pre-school children.

- Ask older children to create the sounds to go along with the animals they are acting out e.g. squeak while hopping like a bunny



The more words children hear, the more words they will know and be able to use themselves. Children first learn to understand and use action words by hearing them used to describe what they or others are doing. So get talking about what they are doing!



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You could print this sheet and take it with you on your walk.

We've left some spaces blank for you to fill with your own finds!

Look and find...

Someone running



A bird tweeting



Someone eating



e.g. a person or animal

Children playing

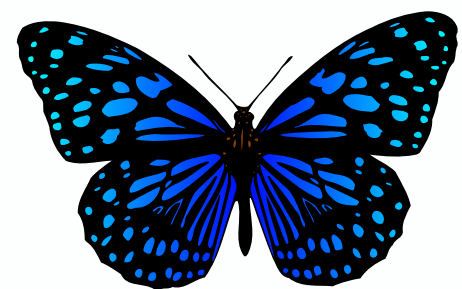


An animal walking



e.g. a dog

Something flying



e.g. a butterfly

Draw or write down anything else you find!