

TALK to me outside

THEME: Animals

- Talking about how animals move is a great way of introducing verbs to children such as running, climbing, flying, swimming, galloping etc.
- As children get older they start to understand and use verbs in the past tense. This enables them to talk about things that happened in the past.
- Verbs can be picked up more easily if they can be experienced so move like the animals as you name the actions.

What to do...

- Before you go on your walk tell the children that you are going on an animal hunt. Let the children tell you the animals they think they might see. Give a few suggestions from the activity card on the back.
- Every time you see an animal check your activity card and let the children tick it off or you can add an animal that is not there. Talk about what the animal looks like, how it moves, where they think it may live and what they think it may eat.
- When you get back support the children to remember the animals that they saw using the activity card. Can the children move like the different animals? Name the actions that the children are doing.

Step it up and make it more challenging

- Turn the game into 'I spy' by giving the children a clue of animals that you want them to find (e.g. an animal that climbs)
- Set a challenge of who can find the animal first (Who is the first to see an animal that crawls?)
- Once the children understand the game, let them take a turn of giving the clue for an animal they want you or their friends to find.
- When back at home, ask the children to recall the animals that they saw and make their own record of the animal hunt.

To the rhythm of 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear'

Make up your own rhyme to 'Brown Bear' about animals that you see. Change the words to add each child's name.

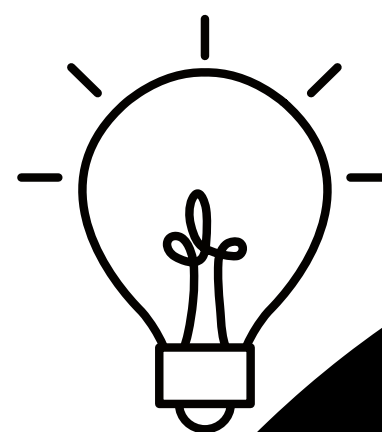
"Harry, Harry, what do you see?"

"I see a grey squirrel looking at me."

'I Went Walking' by Sue Williams

A repetitive story that children can easily join in with. Why don't you share together before you go out, then retell the story on your walk, adding the animals that you see.

[Click here to share 'I Went Walking' together](#)



Verbs are vital for language development because they allow children to start building early sentences.

EVERY SENTENCE NEEDS A VERB!

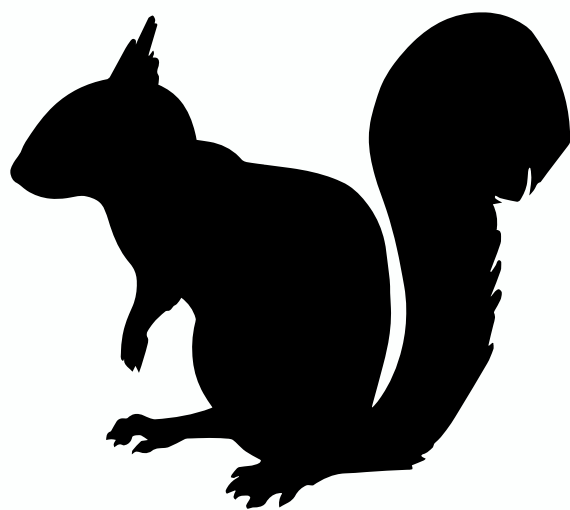
A study showed that children at 2 years who use more verbs have more advanced grammatical skills six months later.

TALK to me outside

We've left some space blank for you to draw and write other animals that you see on your walk

Use this activity card as a way of celebrating when a child spots an animal

An animal that
climbs



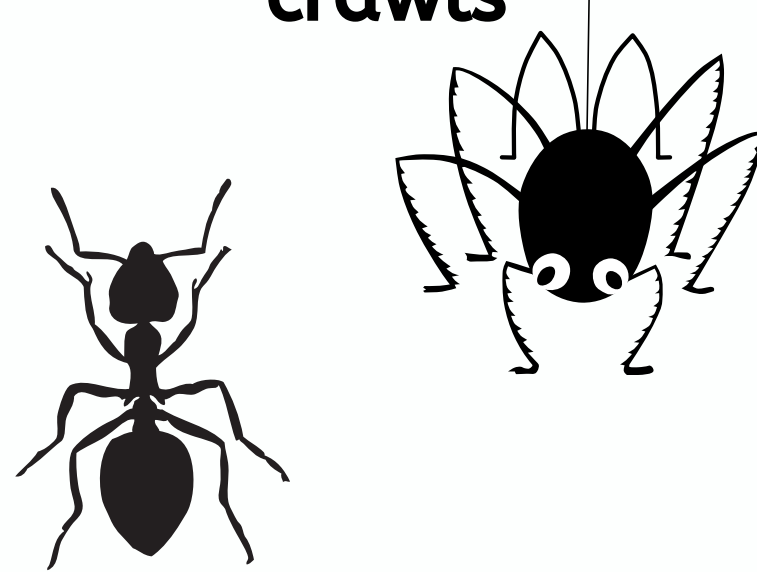
e.g. squirrel

An animal that
flies



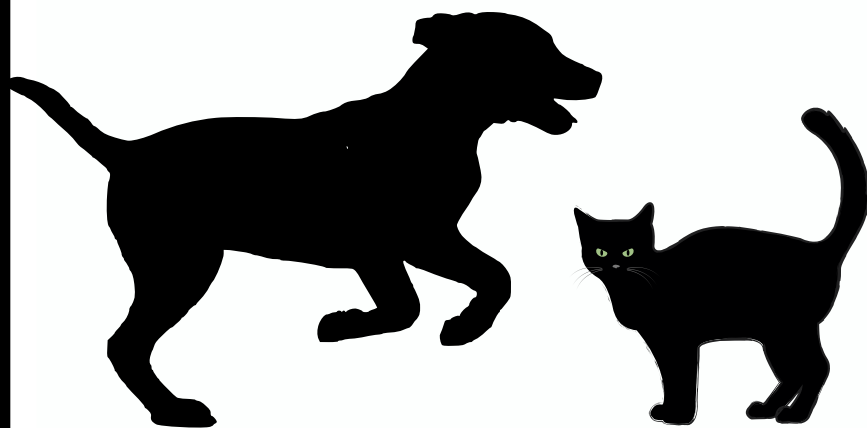
e.g. bird

An animal that
crawls



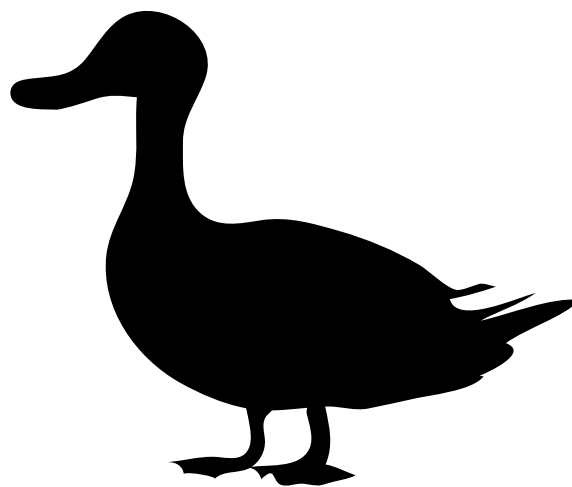
e.g. ant or spider

An animal that
runs



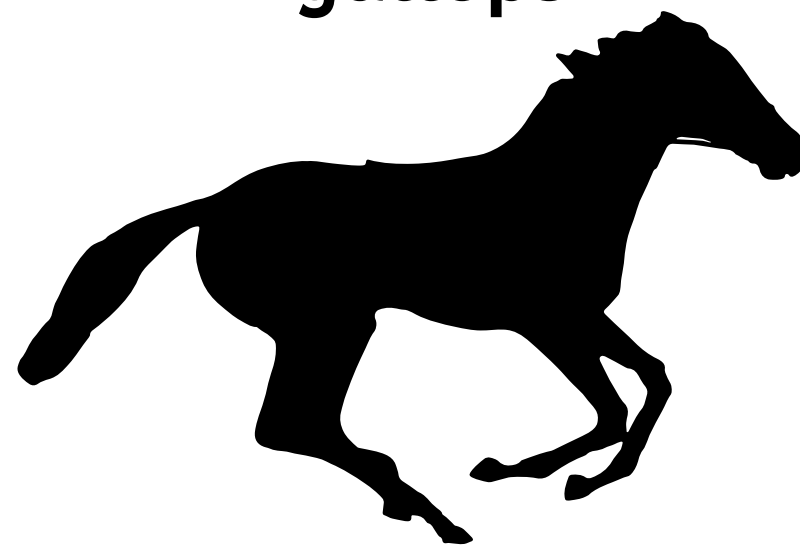
e.g. dog or cat

An animal that
swims



e.g. duck

An animal that
gallops



e.g. horse

Draw or write about other animals you saw on your walk