

TALK to me outside



THEME: Natural Objects

- Natural materials/objects collected on a walk or trip out provide lots of opportunities for language learning both outside and indoors.
- Naming, describing and comparing different objects will help children to develop their own vocabulary.
- There are lots of games and activities you can make/do using natural objects that will help develop children's communication and language.

What to do

- When out on a walk/trip make use of natural materials to help children learn, understand and use new language.
- Use describing words - "can you find a **long** stick, a **green** leaf...Who will find it first? **ready, steady... go!**"
- Talk about things being the same or different - "Can you find 3 leaves the **same** shape? Can you find two sticks the same size? Can you find two leaves that are **different** colours?"
- Make it sensory - "Find something that **feels** smooth, rough, bumpy, spikey. Find something that smells nice"
- Bring in some pretend play and make potions with natural objects. Use action words (verbs) like **mixing, stirring, ripping, pulling** whilst narrating the play.
- Get creative - Read the story '**Leaf Man**' and go on a leaf hunt to make your own art. (You could make binoculars beforehand to help encourage good listening and attention skills when out and about)

Step it up and make it more challenging



- Set a challenge of who can find the **biggest** stick, a **smaller** leaf, the **greenest** leaf.
- Collect all the objects together and put them in order, use the opportunity to model word endings e.g big, bigger, biggest
- Turn it around - look for the smallest, the tiniest or the heaviest/lightest. This can be a good opportunity to talk about opposites.
- Compare amounts - "who has the most sticks in their bag, who has the **least**, who has **few**, who has **many**?"
- Play I spy with a describing twist - "I spy something **crunchy** and **brown**, something **round** and **flat**"
- After reading '**Not a Stick**' talk about what magic things your stick could be - "My stick is a fishing rod"

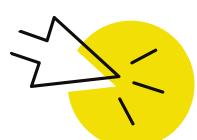
Chanted to the rhythm of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'

We're going on a leaf hunt, we're going to find a green one...
We're going on a stick hunt, we're going to find a long one....

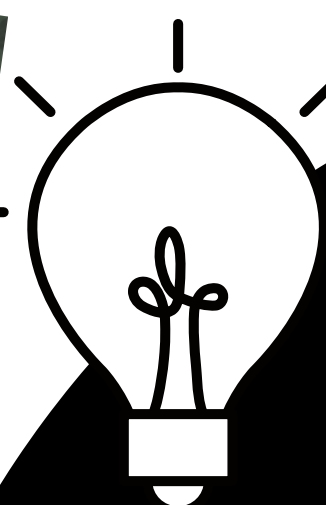


"Not a Stick" by Antoinette Portis

A short book celebrating the power of the imagination to transform even the most ordinary of objects into something magical. Great for imaginative play with natural objects



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwqxd4SfNcw>



Did you know? The number of words children learn in the early years is closely related to their future success

It is important for children to hear and learn a variety of word types in order to talk in short sentences.

You can use lots of different types of words whilst out and about exploring with natural materials

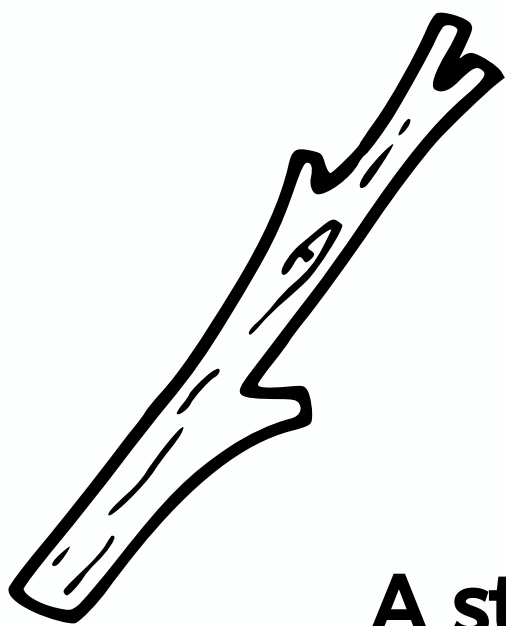
TALK to me outside

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

Use this activity board to help kick start your hunt for natural materials on your next walk.

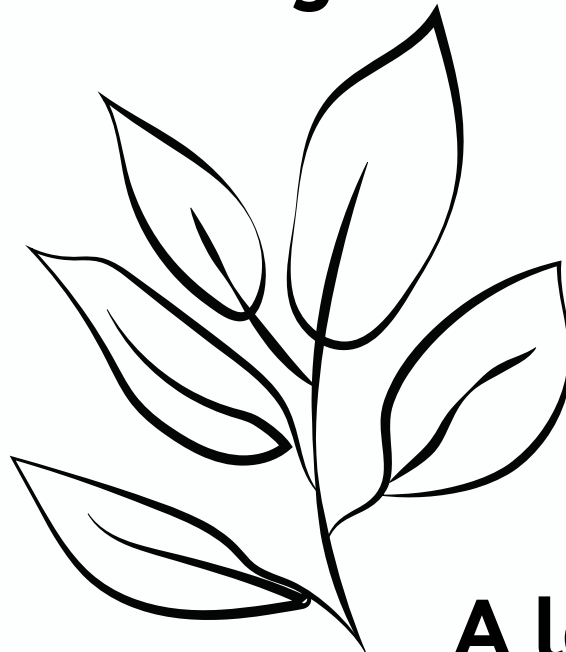
To simplify the activity then you could just use the picture and object ("*Let's find a leaf*") rather than the descriptions ("*Let's find something crunchy*")

Something straight



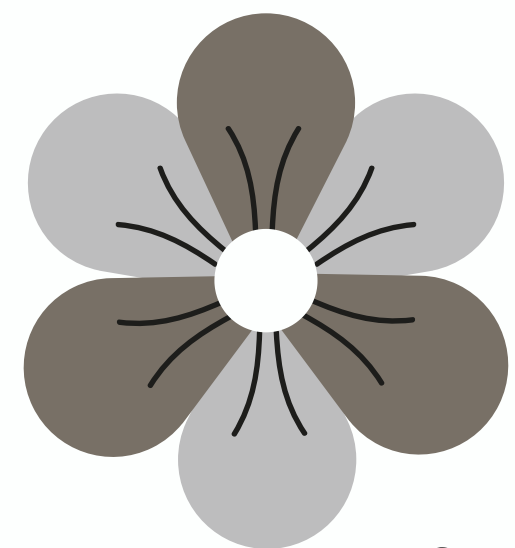
A stick

Something crunchy



A leaf

Something that smells



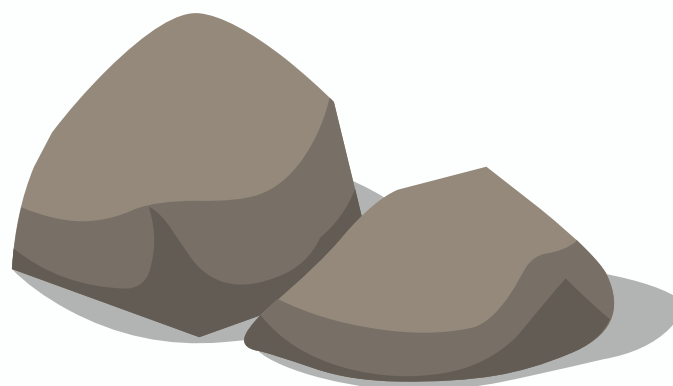
A flower

Something light



A feather

Something heavy



A stone/rock

Something bumpy



some bark

Draw or write about other objects/materials you find whilst out and about