

TALK to me outside



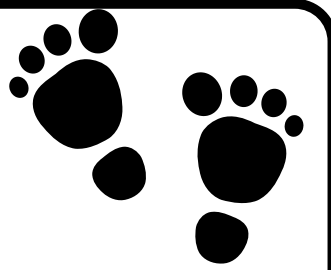
THEME: SHADOWS ON A SUNNY DAY

- Children are born to be curious and explore how the world works. Providing activities that provoke curiosity are a great way to start asking meaningful questions to extend children's language.
- Open-ended questions encourage children to think a bit more about their response, give an opinion or explanation and extend their thinking beyond the here-and-now.
- Ask questions such as 'I wonder how...' 'What do you think about...' etc and wait for a response.
- If children are unsure, try scaffolding their learning by thinking out loud 'I wonder if...'

What to do...

- Take the children outdoors on a sunny day. Point out each other's shadows on the floor. Find different ways to make your shadows move.
- Go on a shadow hunt, looking for different types of shadows (see activity card). If possible take photos of the shadows. Use the language of size when comparing the shadows, big, small, long, short, wide etc. Make a challenge of who can find each item first.
- Go into the shade and ask the children to find their shadows now. Use questions such as 'I wonder...' to encourage the children to think about where their shadows have gone.
- Encourage the children to draw around each other's shadows, either with chalk on the floor or putting large white paper down to draw on.

Step it up and make it more challenging

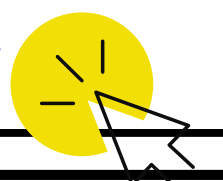


- Talk to the children about how shadows are made, asking open ended questions such as 'I wonder...'
- Talk to the children about why shadows fall in a certain direction and change size and shape, depending on where the sun is.
- Introduce torches to make simple shadows on the wall. Explore moving the torch closer and further away, talking about what happens to the size of the shadow.
- Make shadow puppets with your hands on the wall. Introduce simple stories into your puppet show to encourage children's imagination. Take turns to put on your own puppet shows.

'The Day I Met My Shadow' by Melissa Brun

A rhyming story about a little boy who was scared of a dark spot on the floor.

[Click here](#) to share the story together



"Let's Play Shadows" poem

(to the tune of 'twinkle twinkle'/Join in with the actions to make your shadows move)

Let's play shadows in the sun,
I can make my shadow run.
I can make my shadow crouch down small,
Or reach up very, very tall.
I can make my shadow jump around,
Or make funny patterns on the ground

'Language and critical thinking grow together and nurture each other's development. As children engage in critical thinking, their language skills expand because they're encouraged to develop and use more complex language with words like "because", phrases with "if" and "then" and different verb tenses. Conversely, as children's language development progresses, their ability to think critically grows as well.'

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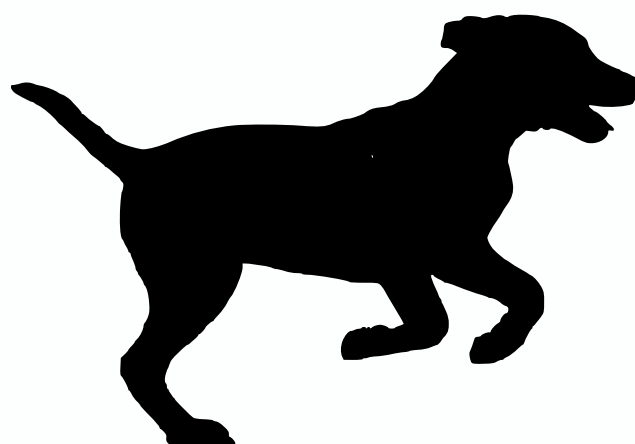
We've left some space blank for you to draw and write other animals that you see on your walk

Use this activity board as a way of celebrating the shadows that the children find.

A shadow of a person



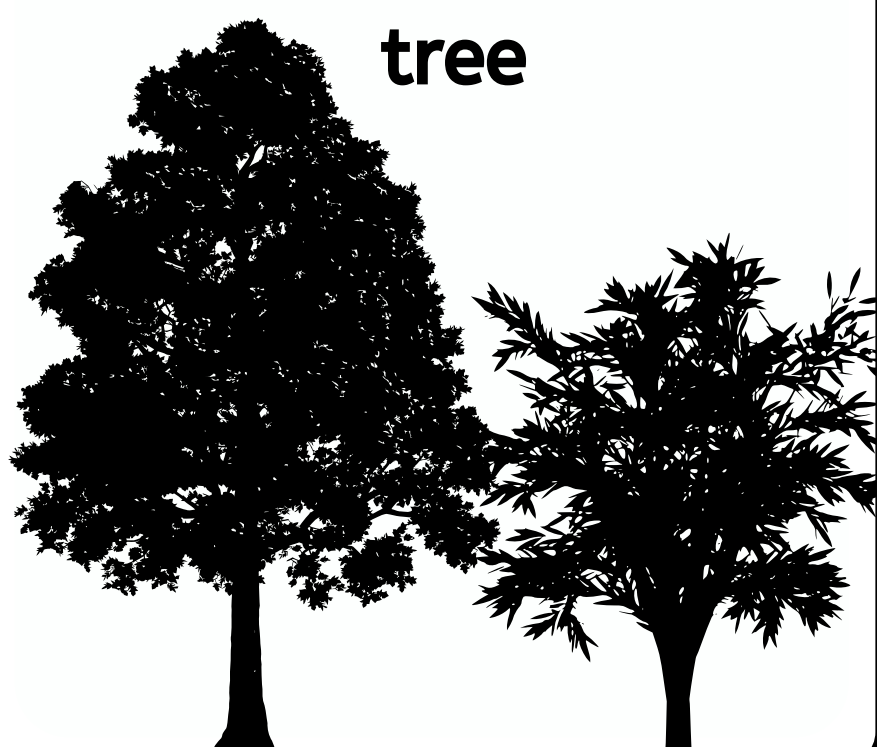
A shadow of an animal



A shadow of a car



A shadow of a tree



A shadow of a bird



A shadow of a building



Draw or write about other shadows you saw on your walk