

Activity 8



SOUNDS OF FARMING



STUDY QUESTION:

If I stay very still when I am in a field or barn what will I hear?

THE ACTIVITY:

In this activity children identify some of the sounds characteristic of a rural farm setting.

SUBJECT AREA:

Science

CURRICULUM CONCEPTS:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Demonstrate listening awareness: attending.

Demonstrate growth in thought processes: expression of feelings; imagining.

SCIENCE

Environment: develop an awareness of and sensitivity to the environment.

AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS:

Sounds and smells as aspects of farm objects and settings.

PURPOSE

To introduce children to the sounds and smells that are characteristic of the farm.

To give children the opportunity to further develop their senses (hearing/smell).

To give children the opportunity to develop their language skills (expression).

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Selected poems.

Instruments for making various sounds.

Information sheets. Supplied in this activity.

TIME REQUIRED:

1 to 2 classes.



PROCEDURE

Part One

Introduction

Bring a tape recording of many sounds that you hear around your house (phone/bell/plane/door/ alarm/cat). Have children identify these sounds and name some sounds regularly heard in their home.

Part Two

Focusing Attention

Have the children put their heads down on their desks or tables. Ask them to get very still and to listen to their own breathing.

After a short while, ask them to listen to the air conditioning, footsteps in the hall, the click of the clock. Ask them to pay attention to other sounds they hear.

Discussion

In about a minute ask the children to slowly open their eyes and lift their heads. Discuss how they felt and what they heard.

Relating

Relate this activity to sounds the children might hear in various farm settings. Examine pictures of farms noting items that might make certain kinds of sounds.

Part Three

Imagining

Then repeat the focusing procedure - heads down, eyes shut. Ask the children to imagine being in specific farm settings. While their eyes are closed speak to them slowly about each setting you want them to imagine. Mention 2 or 3 items that might be associated with sounds. Examples are given on the information sheet on sounds of farming. Incorporate smells as well as sounds if you wish.

Part Four

Conclusion

After a few examples, have the children open their eyes and share their impressions as before. Help them identify some of the sounds that particularly suggest a farm setting or activity. List some of these sound words on the board.

FOR DISCUSSION

What are farming sounds?

Are there sounds that are not usually heard in the city?

How do these sounds make you feel?

Do you think the farm is as noisy as the city?

EVALUATION STRATEGIES

Have children write up a poem about the different sounds on a farm.

Have children record on an audio tape their impression of farm sounds.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Read your list of sound words and those listed below. Have the children use simple instruments to make the sounds:

- old baler banging
- tractor roaring
- grain auger clanking, rattling
- sheep shears buzzing
- cattle bawling
- chicks peeping
- grain grinder crunching
- water pump thumping

2. Make a trip to a field or forest. Take along note pads and tape recorder for recording sounds. After the walk have the children share their impressions of the sounds they heard.
3. Make a Find a Word Puzzle with the sounds in it for the children.



Sounds of Farming - for imagining



Baby Chicks “peep”



Grain Augers “clank”

Sounds of Farming - for imagining



You are watching a combine working in a field. You are 'way up high and you can see the header picking up swaths of grain. You can hear the big cylinder rolling it up. Streams of little seeds fall into the hopper behind the driver. They're picked up by the auger which clanks a bit as it pours the seeds into the big truck. The engine of the truck keeps running as the truck follows the combine down the field.

Sounds of Farming - for imagining



You are in the barn with several cows. They are eating hay and waiting to be milked. When you get up close to a cow to pat her, you can hear her grinding her teeth as she chews. You can hear the cows' hooves on the wooden floor and the swishing of hay in the stall when a cow pulls another mouthful. One of the cows calls out for attention - a low, rising Mo-o-oo.

Sounds of Farming - for imagining



You are at a farmer's market with your mom, shopping for fresh vegetables. The market is in a long, low building and is very crowded. Many people talk at once, and cash registers clang and echo through the market. Someone laughs, a little child screams in the next aisle. Near you someone says, "Look at these beautiful pumpkins!" and someone else says, "Thank you; thank you very much."

