

Kindermusik®



Down on the Ground



What We're Learning pg 2-3

Let's Do These Together!
pg 4, 5, 6, 15

The Listening Walk pg 7-14



What We're Learning

Vocal Development

Young children's vocal cords are still very much in development, and children's pitch and vocal range are limited during these early years. But children will naturally imitate and create sounds, and the give-and-take of everyday vocal play gives them a fun way to explore all the different things they can do with their voices! Songs, poems, chants, and rhymes that offer different rhythms, patterns, volumes, pitches, and inflections are all terrific ways to promote vocal development.

Locomotor Movement

A "locomotor" movement takes you from one place to another. Infants roll over; babies crawl; toddlers toddle. And once those feet get to running, more complex locomotor strategies start to blossom! Children's creative little bodies will jump, dance, twirl, gallop, crab-walk, tiptoe backwards, and more! As they get older, they may even do choreographed dance steps, or run while dribbling a ball. Activities that invite children to move from here to there in some creative way (e.g. "stomp like a bear," "scurry like a squirrel," "move like goldfish") get the bodies moving, the brains thinking, and the creative juices flowing!

critters that live, grow, scurry, bounce, and wiggle around

The Role of Nonsense

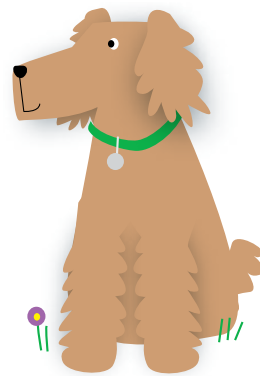
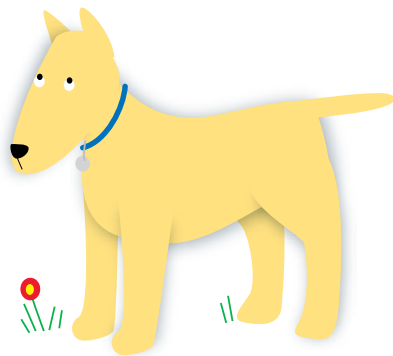
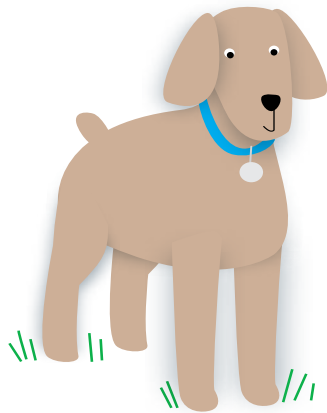
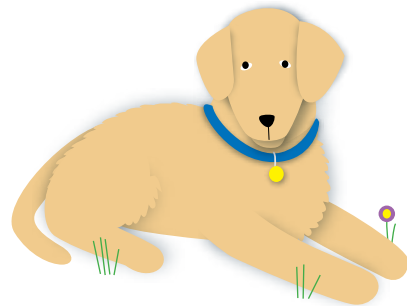
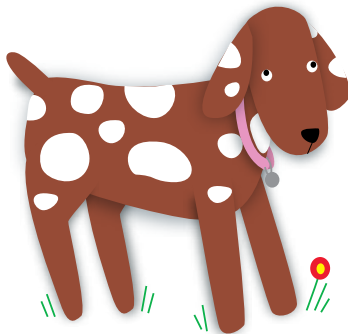
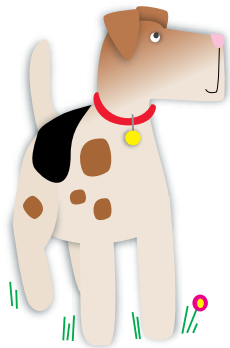
Even though nonsense words may not be in dictionaries, they sure are common in children's song lyrics! And there are plenty of reasons for that. Nonsense words and phrases—for example, *roly-poly*, *higglety pigglety pop*, or *eeples and baneenees* (instead of “apples and bananas”)—often have a rhythmic, repetitive quality to them, and sometimes include alliteration or rhyme, too. In other words, “nonsense” is frequently a pattern! Songs and rhymes that use nonsense words give children's listening, phonemic awareness, and prediction skills a boost as children listen and learn to predict the sounds that will come next. Last but not least, nonsense words are silly, fun to remember, and fun to say!

“ I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells. Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living. It's a way of looking at life through the wrong end of a telescope. ”

—Dr. Seuss, children's author

Which Dog?

Read the clues aloud, and use them to figure out which dog is which.



Chester has
a red collar.

Which dog is Chester?

Rover has ears
that stick up.

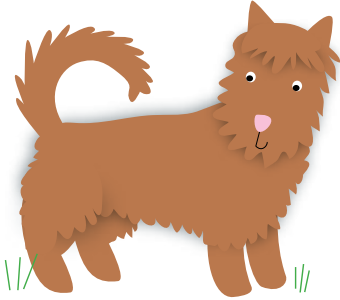
Which dog is Rover?

Nellie has curly hair.

Which dog is Nellie?

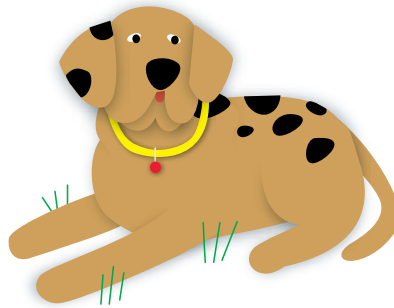
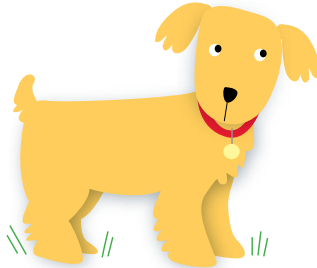


The ability to sift through visual information, compare and contrast images, and sort out similarities and differences is called visual perception, and it's an important pre-reading skill! You can help your child sift through visual information by turning the clues in this game into questions, such as: *Does this dog have a red collar? How about this one?*

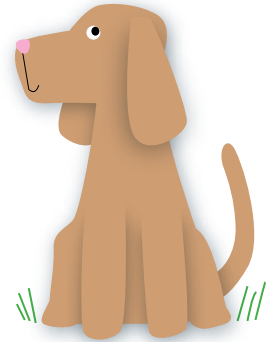


Ace has a long,
straight tail.

Which dog is Ace?



Topsy has spots.
Which dog is Topsy?



Winston has
floppy ears.
Which dog is Winston?

Let's Make a Wiggly Caterpillar

What you'll need:



Thick paper or thin cardboard



Scissors



Hole punch

Metal paper fasteners

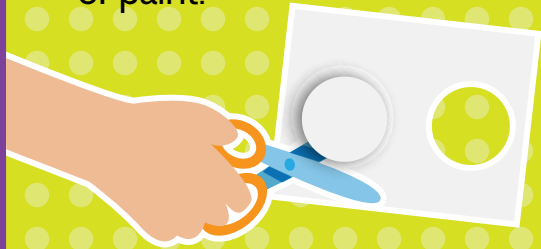


Markers or paint

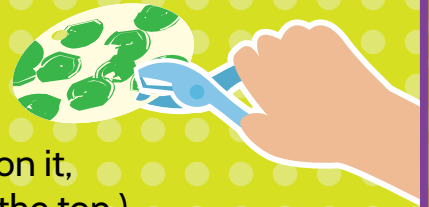


What you'll do:

1. Cut several circles out of the paper or cardboard, and decorate them with markers or paint.



2. Punch a hole at the top and bottom of each circle. (For the circle that has a face on it, only punch a hole at the top.)



3. Use the metal fasteners to connect the circles in a row, to make your wiggly caterpillar. The face should go first.



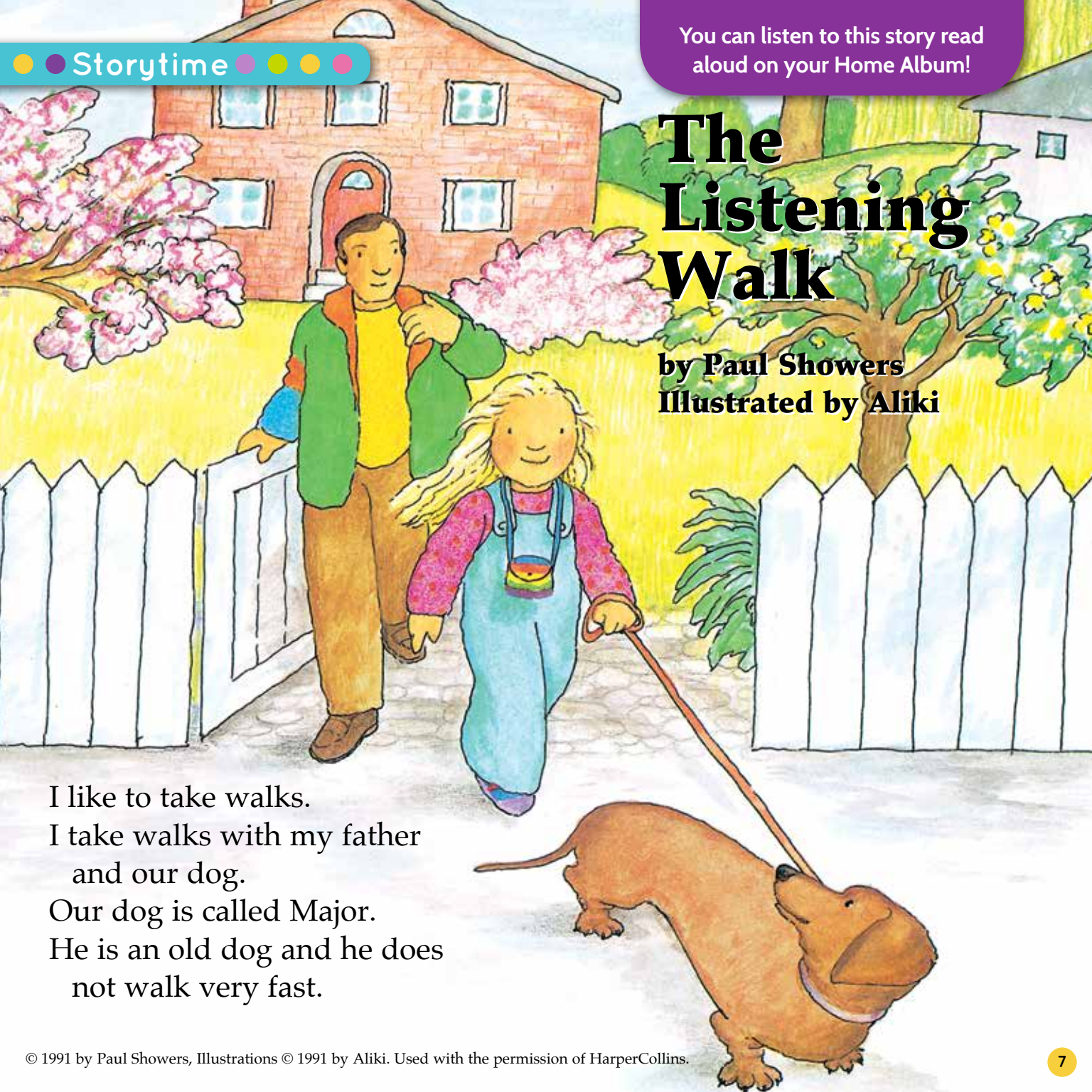
4. Make your caterpillar wiggle!



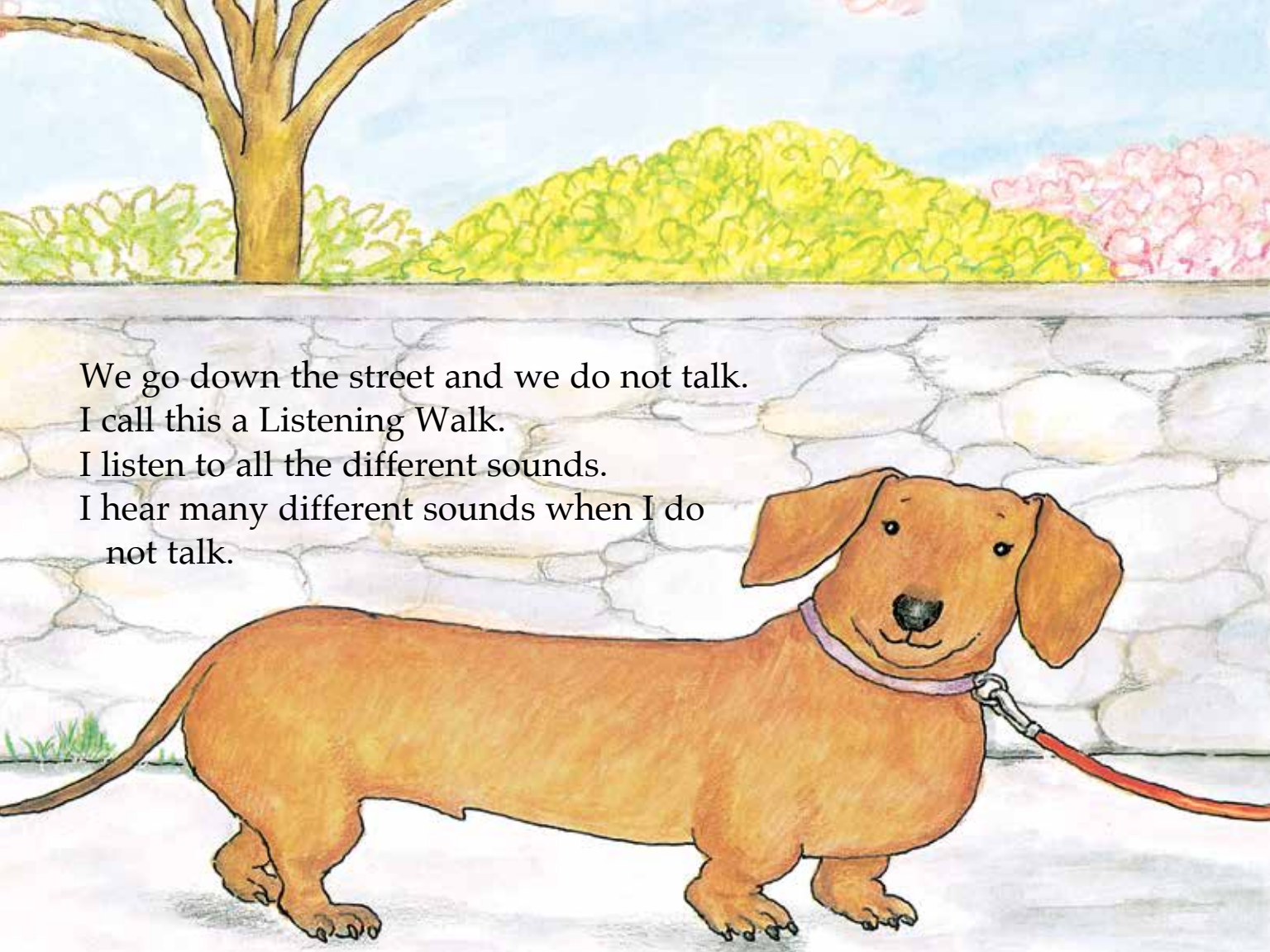
Critter friends: We want to see your critter crafts! Take photos, post them to your favorite social media site, and tag @Kindermusik so we can check them out!

The Listening Walk

by Paul Showers
Illustrated by Aliko



I like to take walks.
I take walks with my father
and our dog.
Our dog is called Major.
He is an old dog and he does
not walk very fast.

A dachshund dog with long, floppy ears and a purple collar is standing on a sidewalk. The dog is facing right and is attached to a red leash. Behind the dog is a low stone wall. In the background, there are green bushes, a tree, and pink flowers under a blue sky.

We go down the street and we do not talk.
I call this a Listening Walk.
I listen to all the different sounds.
I hear many different sounds when I do
not talk.

First I hear Major's toenails on the sidewalk.
Major has long toenails.
When he walks, his toenails scratch the sidewalk.

They go *twick twick twick twick*.



I hear my father's shoes on the sidewalk.
My father walks slowly and his shoes go

dop dup dop dup.

I can't hear my shoes. I wear sneakers.

On a Listening Walk I hear all
kinds of sounds.

A bicycle bell ringing:

tring trring.



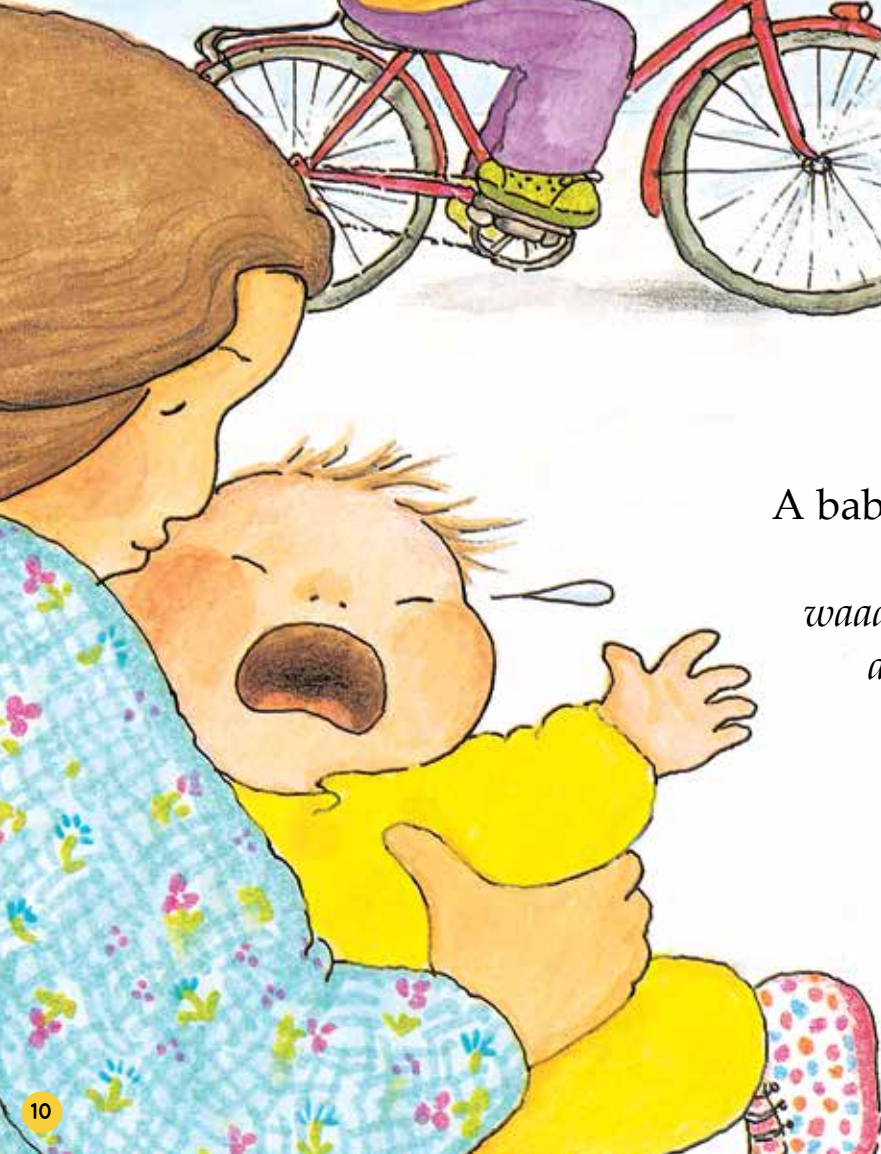
A baby crying:

waaaa

awaaaa

awaaaa

awaaaa.

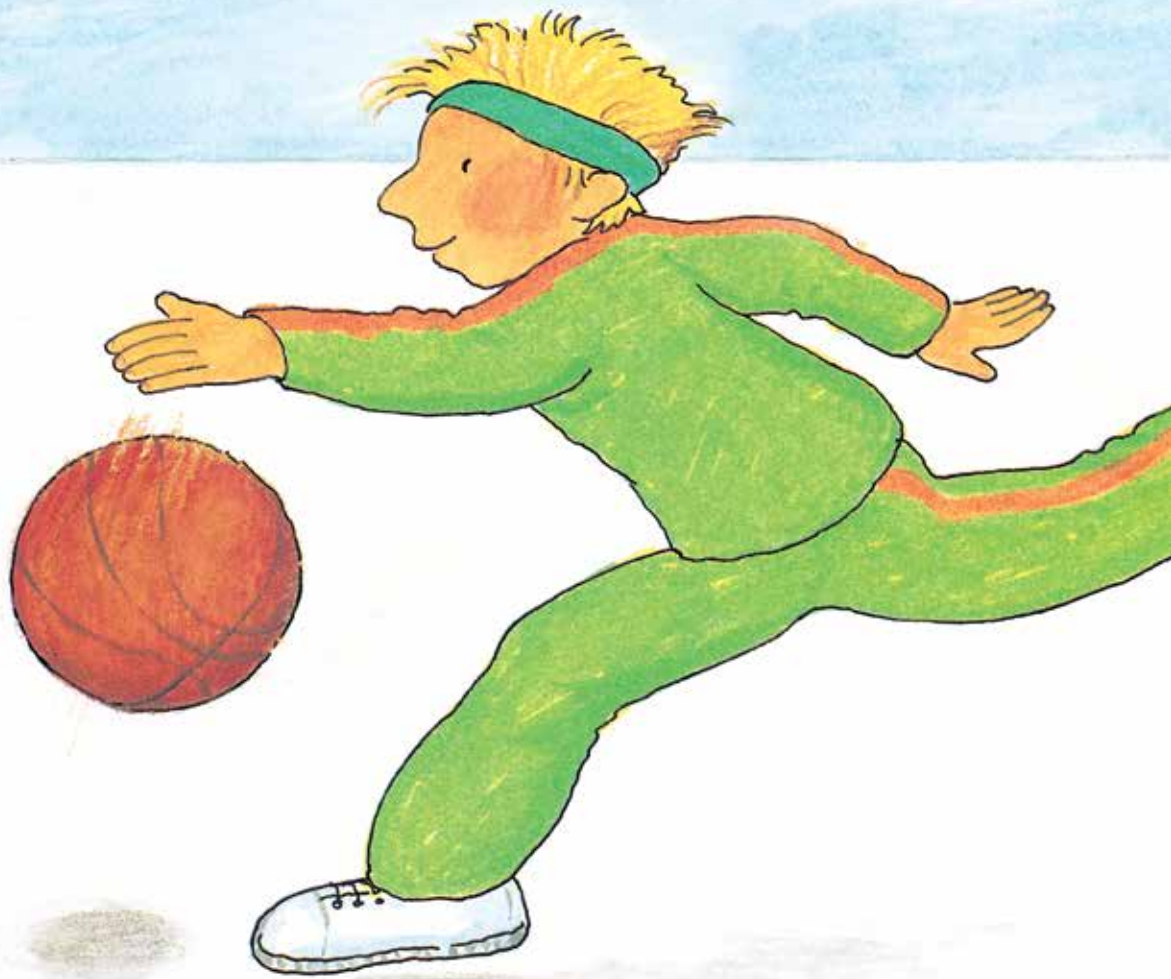


A jet flies over.

Jets are very noisy when they're overhead.

A jet goes

eeeeeyowwwwwooooooooooooooooooooo.



A boy runs by dribbling his basketball:

bomp bomp bomp bomp.



Sometimes my father and I take Major to the park.
I hear a woodpecker on a tree.
The woodpecker sounds like a hammer.
He goes

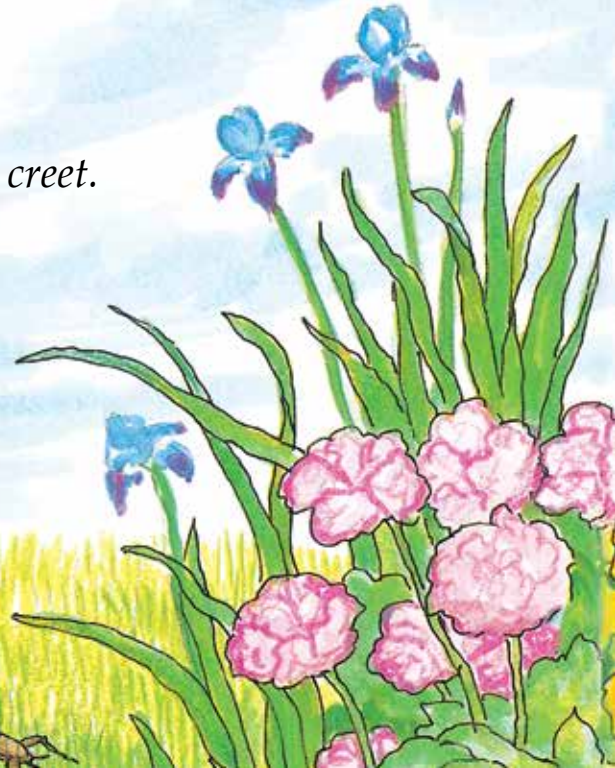
rat-tat-tat-tat-tat.

In the park I hear crickets in the grass.
The crickets go

creet

creet

creet.



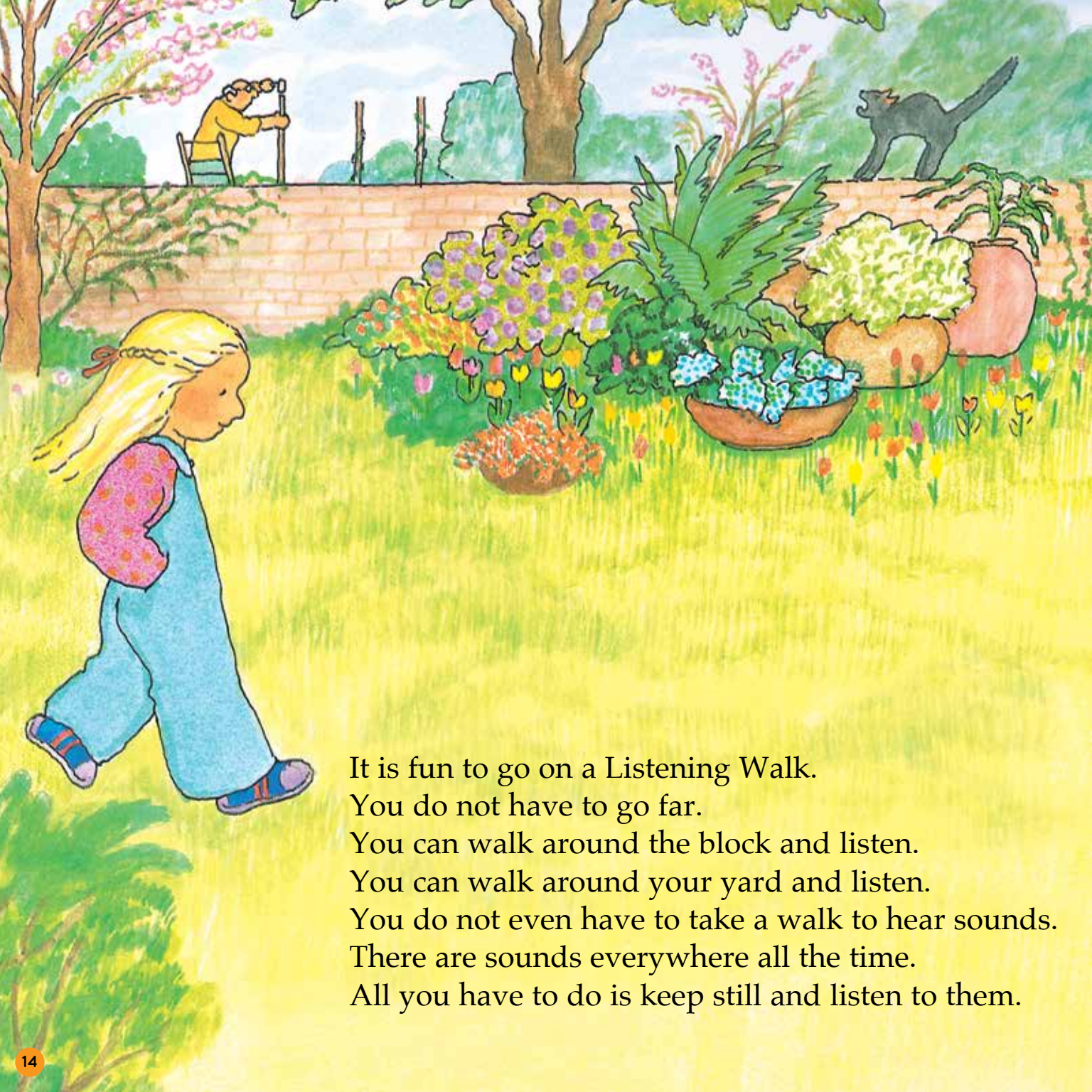
I hear the wind in the leaves.
It whispers

shhhhhhhhh h h h .

I hear bees in the flowers:

bzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz.







It is fun to go on a Listening Walk.
You do not have to go far.
You can walk around the block and listen.
You can walk around your yard and listen.
You do not even have to take a walk to hear sounds.
There are sounds everywhere all the time.
All you have to do is keep still and listen to them.

Sound Walk


Let's go on a sound walk!
We'll make all the sounds we hear.



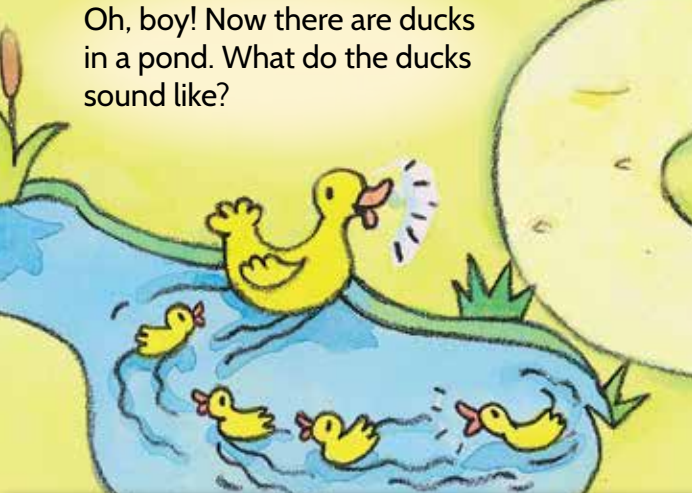
First, we see a bird on a branch. What sound is the bird making?




Next, we see a cricket on a bush. What sound is the cricket making?



Now we see a cat behind a tree. What sound does the cat make?




Oh, boy! Now there are ducks in a pond. What do the ducks sound like?



Then, we see a big dog in a yard. What sound does the dog make?

Let's keep walking!
What do you think we will see and hear next?



You're never too young for vocal play! In fact, studies show that vocal play between babies and their caregivers has a positive impact on the babies' verbal development. Check out our Blog at www.kindermusik.com/mindsonmusic and search "vocal play" to learn more.



We believe in every child's unique potential.
Kindermusik combines the power and joy of music and movement
to create transformative learning experiences. Join us as we
unleash the potential and sense of wonder found in every child.

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