

'If you look with a microscope to my creature you can see his mouth and you can hear it' Etta

'They do use some words. Sometimes'

'a...a...aaa...a.a.a...

aaaaa... a... aaaaaa....

Squisquisquick

brum brum brum

some do like a motobike

Scouscscscs

Smuacs smahcmah

papapapapapa

Blerublerublerubleru

...bleru...bleru...

bruuuuuuuu

Tim Tim Tim Tim Tim Tim Tim...

timo timo timo timo

Bleu bleu bleu bleu

Eh eh eh eh eh

gluglugluglu

Tick tick tick tick

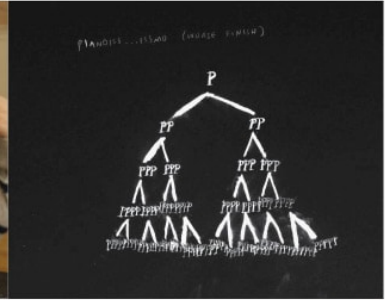
The big ones are louder

Uannauanna

It talked too much and it broke

Boing boing boing

Shhhhhhhhh....'



Reflections' year-long nursery-wide focus for 2016 is *Sound* and we are using the children's fascinations with microscopic worlds and creating life, to explore the limits and mysteries of sound.

Often as the children watch projections of transparent creatures and microscopic worlds they are very quiet. We as educators need to listen to their silent questions. What are they asking themselves? What do they see and wonder about? What will they need to explore their questions further?

We asked the children if the silent creatures make sounds and how they might communicate with each other, and we recorded the sounds children made in response. They made their own language for the creatures they couldn't hear because: 'They do use some words. Sometimes.' (Caiden [3:4]), and we have begun to record conversations between creatures too.

We offered these recorded sounds back to the children, alongside a projection of the creatures moving, in an empty room with mirrors and transparent materials, and the children have developed 'Invisible world' with its own movements and forms of communication.

The possibility of hearing sounds you can't hear, like seeing colours you can't see, or creatures that are invisible to the naked eye, has captured the children's enquiring imaginations. They listen intently for the sounds of life: heartbeats, breath, and words.

'Turtles talk underwater, how? It's hard to explain...' Etta

'It can't see anything, but it can hear' Caiden

'These creatures make sounds' Sophie Grace

'I listened to my creature's heart. It's beating.' Caiden



'Piano, 'p' is my favourite musical symbol. It means to play softly.

If you're playing a musical instrument and you notice a 'p' in the score, you need to play softer.

Two 'p's - even softer. Four 'p's - extremely soft.

This is my drawing of a 'p'-tree, which demonstrates no matter how many thousands upon thousands of 'p's there may be, you'll never reach complete silence.

That's my current definition of silence: a very obscure sound.'

Christine Sun Kim.

