

Playing At Home

ECHOLOCATION!

- Read a book and/or find out about bats and their ability to echolocate.
- Set up a simple obstacle course using furniture, cones, blocks, etc.
- Think of four different noisemakers (whistle, bell, drum, clapping hands, rattle, keys, etc.)
- Set up the sounds and corresponding movements. For example:
 - Bell means move forward
 - Clapping means stop
 - Rattle means turn right
 - Whistle means turn left
- Blindfold your “echolocator” and start them out to complete the obstacle course by making the correct noise for the movement they need to take.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Make an obstacle course
- Blindfold
- Four noisemakers with different sounds

SONG OF THE WEEK

BATS ARE SLEEPING

(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Bats are sleeping, bats are sleeping

Upside down, upside down,

Sleeping in the morning sun, waiting for the night to come ~ to fly around, to fly around.

WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING?

- Setting up an obstacle course supports large muscle development and spatial awareness.
- Assigning specific sounds to specific movements promotes listening skills and cognitive growth.
- Playing imaginative games together is a fun and natural way for your child learn, remember and understand.
- **Mathematical Development:** Exposing young children to positional language (forward, backward, right, left, under, over, beside, etc.) and helping them grow in their understanding of spatial relationships, is one of the strongest indicators and scaffolds for all later mathematical understanding and accomplishment.
- **Cognitive Development:** Learning about bats then playing a game that connects to what you have learned is a playful way to make the learning more concrete. Making connections between what we can do and what bats can do helps children to understand the natural world and empathize with other creatures. Listening for sounds that represent something else is symbolic thinking that relates to **language** and **literacy** skills as well.

POWER OF PLAY MESSAGE

YOU NURTURE YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT WHEN YOU EMBRACE THE POWER OF PLAY

- You are your child's first and most important teacher.
- Play is your child's natural process for learning



 play to learn
Pierce County

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