

TAKE ME FLYING



autumn

Topic: Bird call and flock of birds



Key terms: listening, observation, physical activity

What we need: images of goose flocks, pictures of various geometrical shapes (circle, line, etc.), an audio selection of bird calls you can demonstrate

Estimated time: 10 minutes

Methods: explanation, discussion, examples

Activity description:

Possible objectives:

- To form geometrical shapes with children's bodies
- Work co-operatively in small groups
- To understand that some birds fly in formation whilst migrating

Activity:

Aim of the activity:

To use the outdoor space to make large geometrical shapes.

Background context:

Geese and other birds fly in formation to take advantage of the slip stream, particularly during migration when they need to conserve energy.

Introduction to the activity:

Children are told to close their eyes and listen to the sounds. Teacher imitates the sound of a greylag goose by spinning the cups attached to twine. Children then need to guess who/what makes the sound.

Ask the children why they think birds migrate. Show them a picture of a goose flock and explain that geese migrate in such a formation which is the way we see them from the ground.

During the activity:

Invite children to form some geometrical shapes and imitate a flock (they can choose to lie on the floor or make long chains with other children).

Show the children pictures of various geometrical shapes (circle, line, rectangle, square, triangle, etc.) and ask the children to form the shapes by themselves or in little groups.

Encourage the children to make various sounds like “birdcalls” and tell you a destination they are flying to. Then get them to think about what it might be like to look down on things in the world around us now - what could they see?

If possible, get into an elevated position and ask the children to draw what they can see.

Possible evaluation questions for children:

What formations of flocks have you seen? Why do birds form this shape  while migrating? Why do birds migrate? What shapes have we tried to form in this activity?

Curriculum links:

Maths, geometrical shapes

Social and emotional development and knowledge of the world around you

Sources: © This activity sheet was created by The Take Me Out Partnership

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