Ages: 6-8

Family sound effects



1 hour · indoors · all year round

Prep:

- A wordless scene lasting 30-40 seconds
- Objects for sounds - 5-6: paper, keys, a glass of water, a comb, grains in a box, cellophane
- A4 sheet and pencil
- Phone with a voice recorder - optional

Step by step (~1 hour):

1. Make up a wordless scene with three actions: someone wakes up, looks for their keys, then leaves and closes the door.
2. Write the three actions in a column, leaving space beside each for a sound.
3. Act out the scene silently. Each action should last at least three seconds, or there won't be time to add its sound.
4. Try the objects to find a sound for each action and write it beside the action. Rehearse them one at a time while watching the movement.
5. Put it together: one person acts, the other makes the sounds. Swap roles and talk about which sound matched the movement and which got in the way.

If it's not working: If it is hard to time the sounds with the movement, slow the scene down and stick to three actions. Add sound to each action separately before joining them up.

Playing together: A child aged 4-5 makes one repeating sound; a child aged 6-8 acts or makes the sound effects; an older child keeps track of turns and records a version if they want to.

Make it your own: Add sounds to a scene about the weather, a kitchen or a spaceship; perform the same scene in a funny and a serious way; change one sound and compare the effect.

Let's talk:

- "Which sound shows the movement best?"
- "Where do we need silence?"
- "Which was harder: acting or making the sounds?"

Why try this:

Your child chooses sounds for an idea, coordinates with a partner and compares different versions. Together, you create a story and hear how its mood changes.