Loud and Soft

Explore loud and soft sounds.

Day 1 (20–30 minutes)

What Your Child Will Learn

Science skills: Observing, describing, and comparing sounds
Science idea: Sounds can be loud or soft (or quiet).
Vocabulary words to practice: listen, hear, noise, sound, quiet, compare, whisper

What You Need

Video: Sounds Like … (9 minutes)

What to Do

Sit together so you can talk about the video while you watch.

1. Before you watch, SAY:
   - *Chirp is looking for a quiet place where she can sing a beautiful song. But there are loud noises everywhere she goes.*
   - *When do you like to be quiet? When is it fun to be loud?*
Ask Questions and Talk About Ideas
Connect what you are doing to something your child already knows about—being quiet and loud.

2. After you watch, ASK:
   - Why was Chirp looking for a quiet place?
   - What were some of the loud sounds that Chirp and Quack heard?

ACTIVITY

Quiet Sounds
Can we hear things that are very quiet?

What Your Child Will Learn
Science skills: Testing, observing, and experimenting with sounds, describing and comparing them, and sharing ideas
Science idea: Sounds can be loud or soft (or quiet).
Vocabulary words to practice: sound, listen, quiet, loud, soft, describe, whisper, different, notice

What You Need
☐ small, light objects (paper, straws, pencils, napkins, cotton balls, sponge, piece of cloth, toy, pillow)

What to Do
1. SAY: Let’s listen for quiet or soft sounds.
2. Have your child pick one of the objects and drop it on the floor. ASK: What kind of sound did it make?
3. Drop the rest of the objects one by one. Have your child describe and compare the sound each time.

   Play and Explore Together
   Notice what excites your child—and play along!

4. When you’re done, ASK:
   - Which things made quieter sounds? Which made louder sounds?
   - Which didn’t make any sounds? Why do you think they didn’t?

Ask Questions and Talk About Ideas
Ask questions to help your child think more about the activity. You can start a question by saying, “What do you think …”
Keep Learning!

- Try dropping the same things on a different surface. If you dropped it on a tile floor, try dropping them on a rug. What do you notice?

   ![Explore More!]
   Explore the same science topic with different materials or in a different place.

- Talk together by whispering. Make different kinds of whispers and compare them.

   ![Play and Explore Together]
   Guide your child’s science play—but don’t take over!
Day 2  (20–30 minutes)

**VIDEO**

**Sounds Like . . .**

Chirp is looking for a quiet place to sing a song. But there are loud noises everywhere!

**What Your Child Will Learn**

**Science skills:** Observing, describing, and comparing sounds  
**Science idea:** Sounds can be loud or soft (or quiet).  
**Vocabulary words to practice:** sound, quiet

**What You Need**

Video: *Sounds Like . . .* (9 minutes)

**What to Do**

Watch the video again to make new discoveries. Talk about what you noticed this time.

**Activity**

**Making Outdoor Sounds**

What kinds of sounds can you make outdoors?

**What Your Child Will Learn**

**Science skills:** Testing, observing, and experimenting with sounds, describing and comparing them, recording observations, and sharing ideas  
**Science ideas:**  
- An action has to happen to make a sound.  
- Different objects can make different sounds.  
- Sounds can be loud or soft (or quiet).  
**Vocabulary words to practice:** sound, loud, soft, notice, hear, compare, different
What You Need

☐ stick, ruler, cardboard tube, or large wooden or metal spoon
☐ cellphone to take videos

What to Do

1. **SAY:** Let’s go outside and make some sounds.

   **Explore More!**
   Play indoors and outdoors. Explore the same science topic in a different place.

2. Have your child tap or drag the stick (or ruler or spoon) on different surfaces (sidewalks, bricks, poles, fences, a lawn, bench, playground equipment, etc.). Talk about the sounds you are making.

3. **ASK:** How can you make that sound louder? What about softer?

4. Record some videos while your child makes interesting sounds.

   **Ask Questions and Talk About Ideas**
   Make recordings, listen to them, and discuss. To learn, children need to reflect (think about) what they did.

Talk About What You Learned

Watch and discuss the videos when you get home. Talk about how you made the different sounds. Compare which sounds were louder and which were softer.

   **Ask Questions and Talk About Ideas**
   Talk out loud about your ideas so your child can learn from listening to you. Start by saying “I wonder…,” “I think…,” and “What if …?”

Keep Learning!

- Read a book together. When you’re done, look through the pictures again, and talk about the sounds the objects in the pictures make.
- Go into the settings on your phone and play different ringtones. Describe the sounds you hear.

   **Explore More!**
   Add new materials to explore in a new way.

Play, Talk, and Explore More!

Notice what got your child excited about exploring sounds this week and think of similar activities to try. The more you play, talk, and explore together, the more you help your child think, learn, and grow.