Explore Common Sounds through Listening

Children using listening devices (hearing aids, implants) can discover more about their world by noticing common sounds and knowing what they represent. The wind blowing, a baby babbling, a cat meowing or police officer’s whistle are examples of every day sounds to be aware of and understand what they might signify. Families can use this list of sound examples to encourage children’s interest in their auditory environment and help them develop listening skills.

**Indoor sounds**
- vacuum cleaner
- garbage disposal
- pencil sharpener
- doors closing, banging, doorbell
- pots and pans
- timer
- alarm clock
- clock’s chimes or cuckoo
- object being dropped
- something shattering
- furnace
- stove fan
- chair being moved away from table
- fire going in fireplace
- TV
- music
- electric mixer
- hair dryer
- smoke alarm
- telephone
- knock at the door
- background music in store

**Some softer sounds**
- dishes being put away
- paper being crumpled
- refrigerator
- water running
- coffee percolating
- liquids being poured
- toast being scraped
- click of light switch
- match being struck
- hum of fluorescent light
- radio playing in another room
- pages being turned
- trash compactor
- coins or keys clinking
- traffic outside closed window
- wind blowing outside window
- sewing machine
- pot bubbling on stove
- liquid being shaken in container
- drawer being closed
- fly buzzing
- ceiling fan
- air conditioner

**Human noises**
- laughing
- sneezing
- coughing
- clearing throat
- blowing nose
- yawning
- crying
- snoring
- clapping
- whistling
- humming
- hiccupping
- brushing teeth
- washing hands
- taking a shower
- burping
- zipping up a jacket
- sipping through a straw
- kissing
- people talking in another room
- running
- chewing crunchy foods
- Walking on squeaky floors
Indoor Activities
Making salad: cutting, tearing ingredients; spoon hitting bowl when tossing
Washing dishes: water running; disposal; dropping utensils into sink or dishpan, dishwasher
Making popcorn: shaking popcorn in box; shaking popcorn; popping
Setting the table: placing eating utensils; pouring water or milk
Making cookies: cracking eggs, beating mixture, scraping bowl
Making instant pudding: opening outer and inner packages, beating mixture, scraping bowl
Making toast and jelly: toaster; cutting toast
Sweeping the floor: swish of broom; dropping broom
Wrapping a package: paper crinkling; scissors cutting
Putting away tools: hammer, saw, drill, file
Putting away toys

Musical instruments
- drum
- horn
- tambourine
- stringed instruments
- bells
- toy piano
- xylophone
- musical mobiles
(Sounds with household items)

Outdoor noises
- thunder
- fire engine
- foghorn
- airplane
- truck
- train's rumble
- train's whistle
- bus stopping
- car horn
- car coming into driveway
- walking through dry leaves
- leaves being raked
- branch rubbing house in breeze
- rainstorm
- hail
- wind howling
- Bat or racket hitting balls
- motorboat
- surf
- bonfire
- Wind chime
- trash truck

Quiet outside noises
- footsteps on sidewalk
- distant traffic
- approaching car or bus
- car horn on next street
- key turning in lock
- door being opened
- wind in trees
- constant rumble of city
- distant train
- dog barking down the street
- children's voices in a backyard
- birds singing
- Grass mower or leaf blower motors
- laundry flapping on line
- lawn sprinkler going
- rain

Working noises
- drilling
- breaking wood
- shoveling
- trimming hedges or borders
- sanding
- hammering
- mowing lawn
- chopping wood
- sawing
- walking on the roof

You can think up many more!