

**OVERVIEW**

This simple yet effective activity allows children to relax, explore the natural world and use their senses. It can be done anywhere but is most effective in a quieter outdoor area that could feel a bit special to younger children. Used as part of a nature walk or as a stand alone activity, including the word 'magic' and using a whisper helps set the scene and allow children to engage with the activity.

**CURRICULUM LINKS**

- Understanding the world: senses
- (Ge1/1.4 Geographical skills and fieldwork)

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Use senses to explore the natural environment
- (Create a map using senses of a local area)

**DURATION**

20 - 30 minutes

**INTRODUCTION**

Gather at your chosen area and ask children to name their senses.

**MAIN ACTIVITY**

Explain that each child is going to find their own 'magic spot' away from anyone else within your set area. Lowering your voice and using a whisper can be an effective way to get your pupil's attention and really set the scene.

Once they are in their own 'magic spot' they are going to sit quietly without moving or making any noise for 5 minutes. They need to use their senses to look and listen and record anything that they see or hear on their paper.

Quietly hand out a sitting mat (if using), pencil and paper to each child – once they have their equipment they can quietly go and find their own 'magic spot'.

Once 5 minutes is up, gently call the children back and take it in turns to share what they saw and heard.

**RESOURCES**

- Magic spot scaffold sheet or blank A5 paper

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

- Pencils
- Optional: individual mats to sit on can be used to define a space or if the ground is wet.
- Clipboards

**DIFFERENTIATION**

- Modify the time spent sitting in the magic spot to suit the age and ability of the children.
- Activity can be done with or without a 'magic spot' sheet to record what they saw and heard.
- Magic spot sheet can be modified into a map where children draw or write what they see and/or hear on their paper relative to themselves.

**VOCABULARY**

senses sight sound scent touch taste  
listen look smell far near loud quiet

**EXTENSION ACTIVITIES**

Create a walking senses map, recording what can be seen, heard smelt etc. over a short route outdoors.

**LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

We'd love to hear from you! If you have questions or comments, or would like to book a visit to the Botanic Garden please get in touch: [education@botanic.cam.ac.uk](mailto:education@botanic.cam.ac.uk)