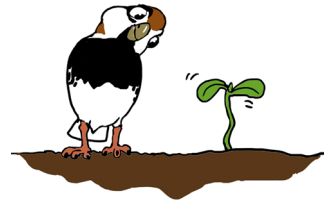




Children develop
a bond with sparrows
– our most common
resident birds – through
storytelling.

Sparrow in a Spot 1



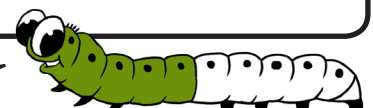
Keywords observation • school grounds • storytelling • recall and create

- 1 Show the children pictures of a sparrow (**Resource File** pages 2–5). Ask if they have ever seen one. Talk about what they know. Make links, keeping focus around nature.
- 2 Take the children into schoolyard, saying that you are going to look for sparrows (good idea to check beforehand to find best time and place for spotting sparrows). Watch the birds and talk about what they are doing. Ask the children if they think sparrows are pets. Explore the difference between animals at home and animals that live in the wild.
- 3 Find a nice place, ideally where the children can see sparrows in the background, set down your outdoors cushions and read the story *Ċips iż-Żgħir / Little Ċips* (**Resource File** pages 6–7) about a nest of young sparrows. You can use related visual material from pages 8–13 to create story prompts as you read, either by projecting them on the board or printing and making pics-on-sticks. Ask the children questions at intervals
- 4 and make links with their own lives and thoughts. Pause to animate the story and add sounds, asking the children to imitate bird sounds around them. Listen to sparrows around you for inspiration.
- 5 Back in class (or outside if you have brought materials along with you) place the children in groups and get them to create something from the story, such as nest (a plastic tub filled with shredded paper), eggs (scrunched up balls of paper), and chicks (cotton wool with eyes). Put them together in a story bag and when you wish to revisit the story, take out the objects and the children can put them in the right order while retelling the story. This trains memory and language skills.

Use the Dinja Waħda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of

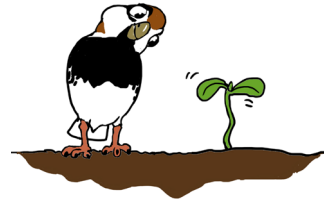
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> children outdoors looking for sparrows | <input type="checkbox"/> children creating props |
| <input type="checkbox"/> children listening to and animating story | <input type="checkbox"/> story bag contents. |





Children develop
a bond with sparrows
– our most common
resident birds – through
observation and imitation.

Sparrow in a Spot 2



Keywords school grounds • observation • creativity • keeping records

- 1 This activity links schoolyard observation with creativity. Go to the sparrow-spotting place in your schoolyard on a regular basis and each time, notice something about sparrows, which may either be behaviours you have seen before, or something new you may see or learn. Link different subjects/skills with this. To help the children bond with sparrows, imitate their behaviour in things like hopping, chirping or flapping wings (arms). When you do hopping, count to 10 and notice how even 10 seconds are hard. Appreciate how sparrows hop for longer and so effortlessly.
- 2 Find a ledge or windowsill where to leave titbits for sparrows. Watch them come for the food, especially in cold weather, when no insect food is about. Notice that sparrows have beaks, make links with our soft lips and hard teeth.
- 3 Do a listening activity and try to imitate the chirp and pattern of sparrow chirping.
- 4 Keep a sparrow diary in class. Decide together how to do this. It may be a weekly diary like your Soil Magic Chart, in which case invent a symbol for the sparrow. Use your imagination to link sparrows to children's lives in as many ways as possible. This is our most common bird and too often we take it for granted living around us!

Use the Dinja Waħda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of children

- observing sparrows keeping a sparrow diary.
- imitating sparrows and other activities

