



Some Common Sounds

If you have normal hearing, you probably tend to overlook many sounds in your everyday living environment. You probably don't think about the hum of a computer, whir of the ceiling fan, or the bang of something being dropped. Little hearing-impaired children need to learn about these many sounds that are part of the everyday world. This list of common sounds will give you ideas about what to point out to your child as you help him develop his listening skills.

Indoor sounds

- vacuum cleaner
- washing machine
- dryer
- 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 razor
- electric mixer
- hair dryer
- smoke alarm
- telephone
- knock at the door
- microwave
- background music in store

Some softer sounds

- clock's tick-tock
- 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 in pocket or purse
- noise of traffic heard through closed window
- wind blowing outside window
- sewing machine
- pot bubbling on stove
- liquid being shaken in container
- drawer being closed
- fly buzzing
- hum of a computer
- 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
- playing Ping-Pong
- zipping up a jacket
- sipping through a straw
- kissing
- playing jacks
- jumping
- people talking in another room
- running
- chewing, (especially celery, peanuts, or potato chips)
- squeak of the floor under someone's footsteps

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
(make your own, like putting blocks in a plastic bottle or beating a wooden spoon against a pan)

Noisemaking Toys

blocks
whistles
rattles
squeaky toys
clicking toys
chalk on chalkboard
carpenter's bench

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
baseball bat or tennis racket hitting ball
motorboat
surf
bonfire
wind chimes, ceramic, metal, or plastic
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
mower running on next road or street
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!