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## The Language of Trees

A three year research project looking at children's play and communication near trees and in outdoor spaces.





The study investigates young children's play and communication near trees and in outdoor spaces.



The project aims to show and celebrate the wide range of interesting ways in which children play and communicate in outdoor spaces. We hope this will inspire parents and educators to value all of these different ways.





We spent Tuesday afternoons at Clifton Park, playing and making art, to see what we would discover and how the children would play and communicate.





What did we learn from the children?

Communicating includes movement, playing, drawing, chatting and making.

Trees move in and out of focus as the children play, and as ideas move across lots of different topics.

Twigs, leaves, seeds, roots and trunks can all become part of play.

The weather is also important in shaping what happens and how people feel.



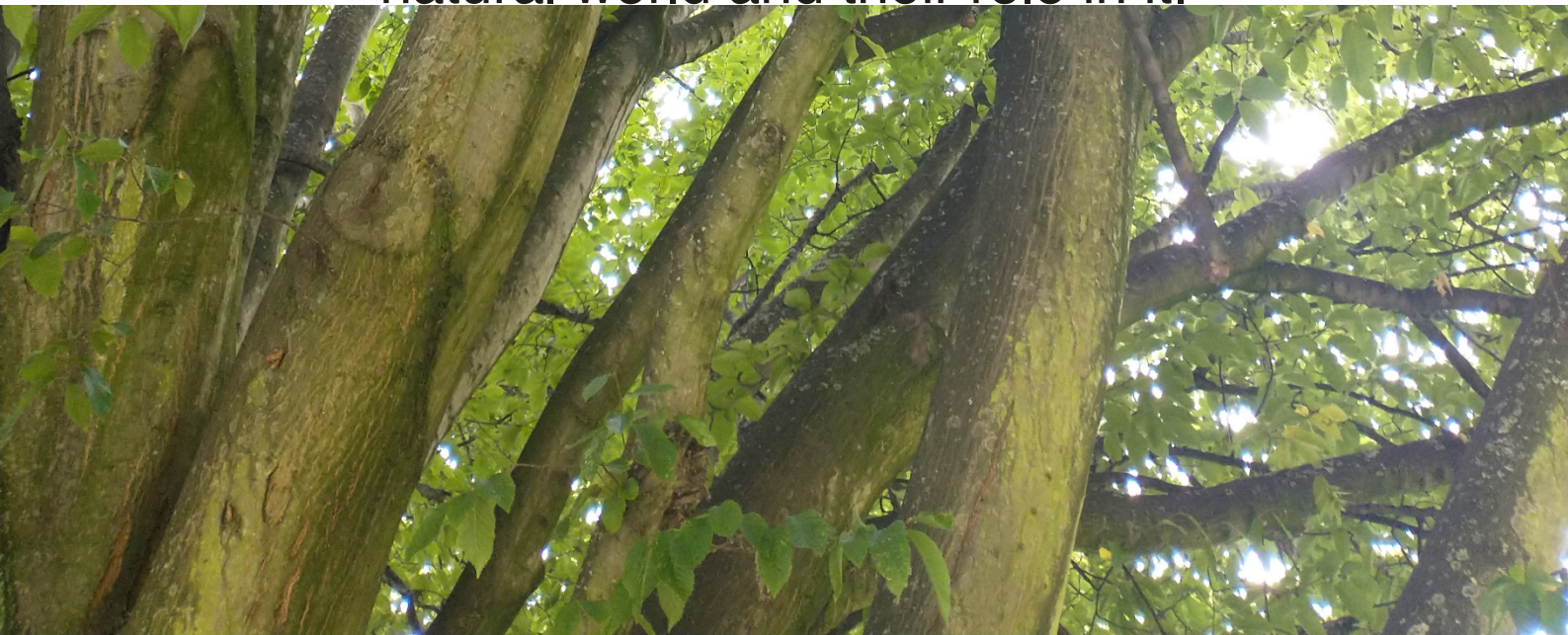


## Why is this important?

There is lots of concern about environmental futures and how to involve children and young people in these conversations. We believe very young children should be involved, but that they communicate differently, so they need to be involved differently.

Young children tend to show us what they think, rather than tell us with words. 'Listening' to children through their movement and play, as well as anything they say to us, is the starting point.

This research will help inform educators and parents who want to support young children to understand more about the natural world and their role in it.







THANK YOU to all the families and children  
involved in the research.

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