

Belonging through listening

Kiko's brief separation from her pod opens a gentle conversation about curiosity, uncertainty, and the sounds that help families stay connected. Pick what suits your child; this guide is an invitation, not a checklist.

Before Listening

What sounds tell you that you are close to home?

Have you ever become so interested in something that you stopped noticing what was around you?

How might sound help an animal in the ocean?

After Listening

Why did Kiko lose sight of her pod?

How did the ocean feel different when she realized she was alone?

What helped Kiko know which way to swim?

What does Grandma mean when she says curiosity can wander ahead or linger behind?

What helps your family stay connected while exploring?

A Deeper Conversation

Curiosity: What helps curiosity and awareness work together?

Belonging: Every voice is different, but all belong. What makes you feel that you belong?

Listening: What can faces, bodies, and surroundings tell us?

Screen-Free Activity: Make a Family Call

Create a short, gentle sound that means "come back together" - perhaps a whistle, clap pattern, or three soft notes. Practice sending and answering it across a room or yard, then let everyone lead.

Safety: This playful signal is not a substitute for close adult supervision or an agreed family safety plan.



Nature Walk: The Sounds of Home

Take a slow 15-20 minute walk. Pause in three places and notice:

- The nearest and farthest sounds
- A sound made by a living thing
- A sound made by wind or water
- A sound that makes the place feel familiar

Back home, draw a sound map with your family in the center and each sound around you.

Try This: Sound Through Water

Fill a bowl with water and gently tap its outside with a wooden spoon. Compare the sound from several safe listening positions. Talk about how sound travels through materials.

Orca Behavior and Sound

Orcas are the largest members of the dolphin family and often live in social groups called pods.

They use clicks, whistles, and pulsed calls. Some learned calls help family groups stay connected.

Sound also helps orcas navigate and locate food.

When an orca rises upright with its head above the surface to look around, it is called a spyhop or spyhopping!

Source: NOAA Fisheries | fisheries.noaa.gov/species/killer-whale/science