



Outdoor Big Point Recordable Buttons (EY04773)

The staff and reception children at The Valley Primary School share with us their thoughts on the Outdoor Big Point Recordable Buttons.



“The fact that the buttons could be used outdoors also meant that the use of the buttons within the provision could be varied and adapted very easily”

Why we chose the Outdoor Big Point Recordable Buttons.

The Outdoor Recordable Buttons were very helpful in supporting cross-curricular learning within the Early Years, as well as for developing the use of technology across areas. Our setting has a substantial number of EAL pupils, so this makes the early acquisition of language and vocabulary pivotal during those early years of their school life. The buttons allowed for the use of a simpler and easy to use technology whereby the pupils could not only listen to sounds that had been pre-recorded by teachers but could also record themselves and evaluate their use of language (within simple sentences).

It was felt that the buttons would support listening and oracy skills particularly well as they were designed to be simple to use. The fact that the buttons could be used outdoors also meant that the use of the resource within the provision could be varied and adapted very easily. Whilst the buttons would mainly support listening and oracy skills, this meant that they could be used across the curriculum itself. For example, it was felt that pre-recording animal sounds would allow pupils to develop a greater understanding of animals that live on a farm or zoo. We also planned to use the buttons to allow pupils to re-tell parts of a story orally. We wanted the pupils to have the opportunity to record themselves independently (after some initial support) and listen back to themselves alongside a friend. We hoped that this would empower the pupils to further recognise how they could improve their work.

Ways we have used the Outdoor Big Point Recordable Buttons

The buttons were used to retell parts of a story. This enabled pupils to further embed vocabulary from a familiar story. The early acquisition of vocabulary is something that is key within our school context and by allowing the pupils to develop a greater sense of worth and independence, we found that pupils could listen back to themselves and improve their sentences further.

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Within Science (Understanding the World), we used the buttons to implement a sorting activity whereby the pupils played pre-recorded animal sounds, identified the animal and categorised whether that animal belonged on a farm or zoo. We were able to take this learning further into Geography as some pupils were able to work out which broad parts of the world some animals may be found in.

We found that the buttons could be used both indoors and outdoors. We loved that we could slide in pictures or words on the buttons as this enhanced the experience further. We could even adapt the resource based on pupils' needs. For example, we stuck on pictures of animals for pupils who had difficulty identifying an animal based only on its sound. The resources had a very good level of impact on the acquisition and development of vocabulary across the provision. The team would be confident using this resource across the whole class as well as to work with individual pupils.

The impact they have had in our setting

Pupils were very engaged and wanted to try out the buttons almost immediately as it was something new, different, and accessible to them. This sparked a further interest in their learning as pupils wanted the opportunity to listen to their ideas using the buttons. The resource definitely developed a sense of wonder and curiosity amongst the pupils. Besides that, the buttons supported several key areas of learning well. This included communication and language, technology (that can be used outdoors), and speaking and listening.

The resource has provided an alternative means to the development of pupil vocabulary. It has also allowed pupils to gain a sense of independence and exploration. We wouldn't hesitate to use the buttons again and again.



Continue on to the next page to hear the comments from the children and staff.



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Quotes from the children

The sound buttons were my favourite, I liked pressing them to hear different animal sounds. They were so much fun
– AP (child)

I want to use sound buttons every day. I liked acting out the Bear hunt story and like pressing the buttons so they make noise – SU (child)

Quotes from the staff

All children were really engaged in the activities and had a great time using the buttons. They are definitely something that can be used in a variety of lessons/activities and really help with the development of speaking and listening - Miss Jones (Teaching Assistant)

A great resource for the Early Years. Children have independence once shown how to use them and are able to show their peers how to take part in the activities. We used them for different learning experiences e.g. Science/Geography/Literacy, and children gained knowledge from each activity. It was clear that all children enjoyed using the big sound buttons as it was a new way of learning - Mrs Makkan (Reception teacher)

- Many thanks to the staff (Mohammed Dawood, Alisha Makkan, Miss Jones) and children at The Valley Primary School for sharing their thoughts with us.

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The staff and children at Woodlands Nursery and Forest School were Terrific Testers and trialed the Outdoor Big Point Recordable Buttons. Read on to find out more.

“Being a forest school, we spend much of our time outside in all weathers and often it can be tricky to balance the technology usage with the British forecast – these buttons are perfect”

The benefits of the Outdoor Big Point Recordable Buttons

The recordable buttons were initially introduced as an aid for a group of children with EAL. Whilst our practitioners try hard to use phrases and words from home languages, we recognise the importance of hearing these with the correct pronunciation. We already use the talking pegs inside for activities and purposes similar to those that we have listed below, but we needed something that could be used outdoors. Being a forest school, we spend much of our time outside in all weathers, and often it can be tricky to balance the technology usage with the British forecast! Then TTS introduced us to the outdoor recordable buttons.

A great resource for children with English as an Additional Language (EAL)

We are very lucky with our parent partnerships and they are happy to support us with teaching and learning. Parents were invited to record keywords and phrases such as those linked to toileting, hand washing, snack times, etc onto the buttons. These also have images on them to support further. These buttons are then used around the garden and forest school to enable children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL), to communicate with the practitioners and vice versa.

Other ways the buttons have been used in our setting

- The sound buttons have provided us with a communication tool, particularly at Forest School. This is a large space with lots of activities set up so it can be difficult to have an adult input at each station. With the introduction of these buttons, the forest school leader can prerecord messages such as questions to provoke learning or to give an instruction. This can be left alongside the activity for the children to press and listen to.
- Used to support SEND and expand on our signs & symbols so that the children can see their symbol, communicate their needs, and then have a voice by pressing it and hearing their need.

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- Using whiteboard pens, we encourage the children to draw what they can see such as the insects they find on minibeast hunts. They are then shown how to use the recordable element to narrate their artwork.
- During nursery rhyme week, we combined the Outdoor Recordable Buttons with the Rhyme Time Bags. We recorded the nursery rhyme onto the button and left this, along with the props to sing the song.
- We've explored these buttons alongside phonics games such as matching the animal sound it plays to the small world animal.
- The preschool children enjoyed creating their own obstacle course with the buttons as aids for peers to know what was expected at each station.



Many thanks to the staff at Woodlands Nursery and Forest School for sharing this review with us.

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Teacher, Joanne Johnson, shares with us the benefits of the Outdoor Big Point Recordable Buttons in an early years setting.



Joanne Johnson, a teacher, shares with us the benefits of the Outdoor Big Point Recordable Buttons. Here they are:

1. The buttons have a hanging hole in the back so that they can easily be mounted onto a wall or fence.
2. They are quite big and chunky which makes them ideal for children with fine motor issues.
3. Have a 30 second recording time which is an appropriate amount of time for children in the early years.
4. Due to them being portable, they are ideal for daily reminders as children can take them with them.
5. A useful removable panel/content pocket on the top. This allows staff and children to add pictures and images. Good visual aids.
6. Good for outdoor use.
7. Ideal for learning 'sticky knowledge'. Could record quizzes on them as a challenge for children.

Many thanks to Joanne Johnson for sharing these benefits with us.