

03 - Sound Effects

Hello! Thanks for your interest in WHO SMARTED? The free kids audio series from the creators of Brainchild and Brain Games!

3 things your smart kid will discover in today's Sound Effects episode:

Movie sound effects were created by Jack Foley at Universal Pictures in the 1920's when movies stopped being silent.

Sound effects are used when it is either impossible to capture the needed sounds on a movie set, or if it is too dangerous to make the real sound (fights, fires, explosions).¹

Jack Foley walked over 5,000 miles creating footstep sounds at Universal over his more than 40 years in the business.

Here's something we left out, for you to share:

Sound and light travel at very different speeds, and sound and motion from a film or TV are never actually exactly in sync by the time they reach your eyes and ears. This speed difference and out-of-sync issue is as true for things in "real life" as it is for watching movies or video. Your brain has a sort of built-in buffer that compensates for this, and presents the world to you "in sync". In fact, sound can be mismatched to the image in a film by as much as 3 or 4 frames per second before you even notice!

Wanna keep the learning going after the episode? Here's some more fun stuff to do:

Your kid can learn to make their own sound effects with everyday objects at home!

Try recording these on a recorder or phone:

Galloping horse - hit two shoes against the floor in the rhythm of a horse

Swarm of bees - hold the recorder near the air coming out of an air conditioner

Dinosaur hatching - crackle an ice cream cone to make the sound of a dinosaur egg breaking open

Fire - crinkle some cellophane to create the sound of crackling fire

Rain - drop a steady stream of rice onto a plate or pan

Walking in leaves - crunch up cornflakes or other cereal (over the sink please!)

Now that they're thinking about how to make one thing sound like another, are there any other everyday objects they can think of that might make a great sound effect? Here's even more ideas from our friends at [Storyblocks](#).

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com