Understanding functions of body parts

Activity to develop understanding of body parts:

- Draw around your child whilst they lay on paper (or freehand like below).
- Take this activity outside to the garden if you have chalk and slabs!

- Suggest body parts that need to be added such as ears, eyes, mouth, nose, hands, and feet.
• Next, ask about what various body parts do, for example: “what do we do with our ears?” we want the child to say at least one of the following: ‘we hear, listen, wear earrings’. Do the same with the other parts of our body.
• In place of this activity, you can look in magazines and newspapers at pictures of people carrying out actions and ask questions about different parts of their body such as “what is she doing with her hands?” - ‘throwing’.

If your child needs help you can:
• Start with the easiest body parts like hand, feet, and mouth.
• Comment throughout the day when you see your child using parts of their body i.e. “you’re clapping your hands”, “blow the bubbles with your mouth”.

If your child can carry out these requests, you can ‘step up’:
• Introduce less obvious body parts such as brain, heart, bones etc.

Running through this activity little and often will help to support your child’s language development. Remember, we are not trying to create a ‘test’ environment, we are aiming for a fun interaction where you can use prompts, choices, and gesture to scaffold your child’s learning.