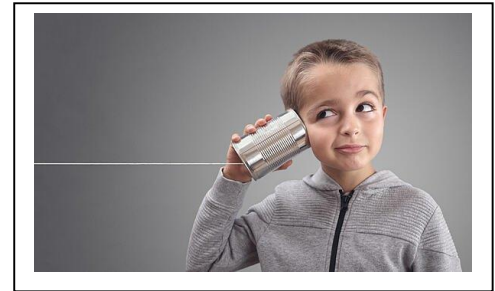


Parent Information Sheet

Help Develop Attention And Listening

A child needs to be able to attend to relevant things in their environment in order to be able to learn. The ability to focus and to maintain concentration is essential in learning. Listening involves being able to concentrate on and understand the words being spoken. A child doesn't just naturally listen and doesn't naturally give attention to what is being said. This is something they need to be taught.



- **Distraction** - Remove or minimise distractions — turn off the television, remove phones or tablets, switch off music or find somewhere quiet to work and play.
- **Name** - Use your child's name at the beginning of the verbal instruction. This can help 'tune in' the child to listening.
- **Level** - Be on the same level as the child e.g. with small children playing on the floor, be on the floor with them.
- **Eye Contact** - Gain eye contact with your child and expect them to hold contact before giving any instructions.
- **Speed** - Slow down your rate of speech. Allow time for your child to process the instructions (depending upon age / ability) before expecting a response.
- **Gestures** - Use gestures, objects, signs or symbols to support verbal information. This can help with understanding the verbal information.
- **Keep it Simple** – Use simple sentences. Break up longer instructions.
- **Rules** - Use rules such as 'good looking', 'good listening', 'good sitting', 'good waiting' and 'good thinking'. These can be used as reminders just as they are used in school.
- **Praise** - Use specific praise to reinforce good looking and listening e.g., 'You're listening really well'.