



Parent Information Sheet

Encouraging Listening Skills



Listening is an important skill which is necessary to help language development and general learning. Remember to use the phrase 'Good Listening' and visual clues to help younger children.

1. **Barrier Games** – Collect together two identical sets of objects, one for you and one for your child. Make sure you cannot see each other's objects (by using a barrier or sitting opposite sides of the room.) Give each other instructions about where to put the objects, eg, put the spoon in/on/under the cup/plate/box. At the end of the game see if the objects are in the same position.
2. **Stories** - Tell your child a story and see if they can tell it back to you without looking at the pictures.
3. **Make Mistakes** - Read a story and then as you read it a second time make deliberate mistakes see if your child was listening and recognises the mistakes.
4. **List Game** - Play list games where you have to **remember** a list of items.
Adult: I went to shop and I bought an apple. Child: I went to shop and I bought an apple and cake.
5. **Describe Game** - Describe a picture of an object that only you can see. Your child has to listen and guess what it is.
6. **Sound Lotto** – Say a sound for your child to identify and then point to the appropriate picture / letter on a lotto board.
7. **Lotto Games** - When you choose a card don't let your child see it, just name it or describe it and see if they can find the matching picture.
8. **Copy Me Game** - While sitting down try a copying game to encourage your child to look, listen and respond EG. Put hands on head, stamp feet, clap.
9. **Instructions** – During everyday activities, give your child two simple instructions to follow EG. First go upstairs and then make your bed.
10. **Rhythms & Beat** - Clap/tap out simple noises with your hands and get the children to copy you. Gradually increase the complexity of the claps and

taps. You can extend this by clapping out a rhythm and getting the children to copy you.

11. **Find A Hidden Ticking Clock/Music** - Hide a ticking clock or a tablet playing music in a room at home and ask your child to find the noise.

12. **Praise** - Don't forget to praise your child for their efforts.