

Listening Games

Listening and attention skills are an essential prerequisite for the development of language and learning. Without these vital skills, children will struggle to access learning in nursery and school.

The following activity is designed to help your child to develop their listening and attention skills and to follow instructions...

Postperson

Make a postbox out of an old cardboard box, with a hole cut into it. Your child can be a postperson - have 4 or 5 toys to choose from. Ask them to collect different 'parcels' for posting.

"Can you post the spot book?" If your child can follow an instruction with one item to collect, the activity can be extended by asking your child to collect two or three objects at a time.

"Can you post the book, the spoon and the toy car?"



Ready, Steady, Go!

- If you have got some blocks at home build a tower. Your child waits for you to say "Go" before they can knock it down.
- · Have a race - ready steady go...
- · Push a car to each other - ready steady go..
- · Roll the ball - ready steady go...

Where is that noise?

Get a toy or play music on a phone or mp3 player. Hide the noisy object somewhere in the room - can your child find it?



Musical Statues

Musical Statues is always a fun game to play but it is also great for children's listening skills. If your child is struggling to stand still when the music stops change the game to musical bumps so they sit on their bottom when the music stops.

Musical Islands

For this game you will need six pieces of paper large enough for your child to stand on. Draw a number on each piece of paper e.g. 2, 5, 1 etc. Scatter the pictures on the floor. Play some music while your child dances. When the music stops they must listen carefully to what you say. Say, "where's the 4?" etc. Your child must jump onto the correct picture. You could make this activity more difficult by asking them to count how many taps you make before jumping on the correct number.

This game could be adapted to shapes, colours, letters or whatever you want. It could also be played outside where there is more room to run! You could use chalk to draw numbers on the ground.



Magical Sound Box

Start by laying out different objects on the floor such as keys, coins, a bag of pasta, etc. Introduce each object, naming it and shaking it to make a sound. Next you need to put these objects into a covered box or container.

You then shake or move one of the objects inside the box, still hiding it from your child. Ask your child if they tell you what he or she heard.



Simon Says

Simon says is a great game to help with children's listening, attention and understanding. There are lots of instructions you can say with this game. Begin with body parts before asking your child to find things around the house. For example, "find something red", "find a picture of you".

Traffic Light Game

This is a game that could be played outside or in a bigger area as it involves running around (and hopefully burning off some energy) but it also develops listening skills. You could use something Red, Yellow and Green to hold up as a visual aid whilst you say the colours. Explain that red means stop and green means go. Your child moves around the space when you say "Green" and stop when they hear the word "Red". Once your child has got the hang of the game, you could make it more difficult by introducing the word 'yellow' with the instruction to sit down.