

Attention and Listening

Listening Walk

Talk to your child about the sounds they can hear on a walk. Tell them they have to walk very quietly and say what they hear. Different routes will give a variety of listening experiences.



Sounds from around the home

Gather up objects from around your home and see if your child can identify them by the sound they make:

- Keys
- Doorbell
- Squeaky toy
- Mobile phone.



Hidden everyday sounds

Tell your child that they have to listen to you making noise. Make a noise behind a barrier with different materials such as:

- Ripping paper
- Cutting paper with scissors
- Putting a spoon into a bowl
- Pouring liquid
- Jingle keys
- Zip a zip
- Open a packet of crisps.

See how many noises your child can recognise.

Take turns to make the noises behind the barrier.



Listen for a target word

- Tell your child that they have to clap each time they hear a target word. Tell your child a list of words including the word they have to listen for.
- Another way you can play this game is to tell your child that they have to add a building brick to their Lego wall each time they hear the target word.



Snap!

Play a game of 'Snap' with your child.



Simon Says

Tell your child that they are going to follow your actions. When you do an action and say, "*Do this!*", your child has to do the same action, but when you say, "*Do that!*", your child has to stay still.



Mr Potato Head

Tell your child that they have to listen for the instruction you give to them about Mr Potato Head. Give your child simple instructions to make Mr Potato Head. Encourage your child to take their turn and tell you what to do!

You can also make this a little bit trickier if you add in a Mrs Potato Head too!



Keeper of the keys

Sit in front of your child on the floor with your keys in front of you. Tell your child that you are going to close your eyes and they have to try to get your keys away from you without you hearing them.



Copy my rhythm!

Sit with your child and tell them that they are going to copy the movements you make. Clap a simple rhythm and ask your child to copy you. Make it trickier by changing the rhythm of the clap.

Tell your child that they can make a rhythm for you to copy now!



Musical Statues

Play some fun music your child enjoys and tell your child that they can move when the music is playing and when the music stops, they have to stop too.



Whispers

Tell your child that they are going to listen to your whisper and they are going to tell another person in your family. Start with whispering one single word. You can build up the words to short phrases and then to entire sentences.



I Spy

Play 'I Spy' with your child but instead of using letters for the clues for the objects, you could try using a description instead.

For example: *"I spy with my little eye something that is red"*, or *"I spy with my little eye something that bounces"*.



Traffic Lights Game

Tell your child that they are going to listen to the colour you say and do the action that links to that colour. You can start with using *“Red!”* for stop and *“Green!”* for go and then perhaps add in other colours to do a different action, for example, *“Pink!”* could mean jump!

