

Auditory Discrimination

What is this and why is it so important?

When children learn language, they need to be able to tell the difference between the sounds they hear, i.e. spoken sounds, and everyday sounds.

Auditory means hearing sounds.

Auditory Discrimination means noticing the **difference** between the sounds that they hear.

The activities described below, will be helpful for younger children. Have fun with these games, as they can also help in the development of your child's reading skills.

Guess the sound

For this activity look around the home and find objects which make different noises, e.g.

- Whistle
- Bell
- Scrunched up paper
- Ripping paper
- Plastic bags
- Opening/closing of drawers/doors
- Dropping two coins
- Shaking bunches of keys, etc.



Once your child has had the opportunity to see the items and hear the different sounds, ask them to look away and listen carefully, then identify which item made the sound. Ask whether the sound was **loud** or **quiet**.

Guess the animal

Make the sounds of the animals in the pictures and see if your child can point to the correct animals.

Try a practice one first, so your child understands the rules of the game.

Reverse the roles, getting your child to make the noise while you point.



Music time

Ideas for home-made instruments

- To make a drum, use an empty biscuit tin, with a wooden spoon for the beater
- To make a shaker, put some beads, dried peas or pebbles into a plastic milk bottle
- To make a xylophone, fill glasses with different levels of water.

You will need to have two of each, one for you and one for your child.

How to use

Make a sound. Encourage your child to copy you. Draw their attention to the fact that the sounds from the same homemade instruments are the **same**. On another day, play different instruments to show them that the sounds are **different**.

