

Attention and listening Activities

HIDE THE PHONE



While your child is out of the room, set the timer on your phone to go off in a minute or two and hide it somewhere safely accessible to your child.

When your child returns to the room, ask your child to listen for the sound and locate your phone.

Items required: phone or a timer

WHAT DID I DROP?

Collect a few small household items made from different materials (metal, wood, plastic, rubber). With your child, drop each one on to the table and listen to the sound. *Ensure each item has a sound distinct from the others.* Your child then turns his back and identifies the item you drop.

Make sure you have a go also – you might make some mistakes!

Items required: coin, paper clip, Lego brick, wooden block, battery, bouncy ball, marble, ball of foil, pack of tissues, pencil, pebble



LISTENING OUTDOORS



When outside with your child, play a game where you raise a hand when you hear something. When someone raises a hand, everyone must stop and listen.

What is it?

Is it near or far away?

Can we see it?

LISTENING INDOORS

With your child, sit still and make no sound for 30 seconds.

This can be challenging!

Then each person tells what they heard. What made the sound? Was it near or far away?

If you repeat this on different occasions you should find that your child, and perhaps you also, will become aware of sounds that you don't normally register.



COPY MY ACTIONS



Ask your child to watch you as you do a simple action. Then ask your child to copy your action. He watches again as you repeat the same action and add another one. Continue to add one more action each time until you feel it is enough.

As a challenge, you could reverse roles so that you copy your child. Your child will now have to recall the sequence first each time, making it a little trickier!

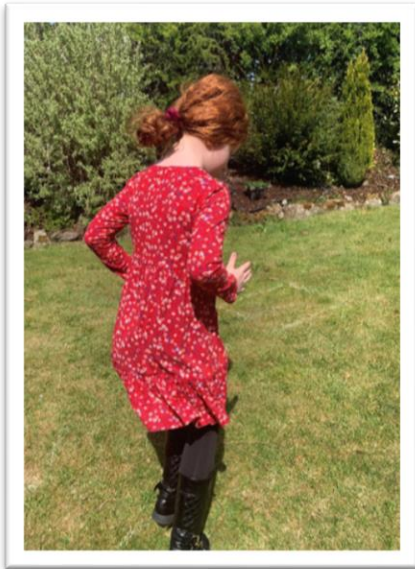
WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL

Show your child a sound maker and then put it behind your back. Give your child one or more simple action commands which your child must wait to do when they hear the sound signal, for example “jump six times then do a twirl!”.

Items needed: Noise maker



MOVE TO THE SOUNDS



Show your child some sound makers. Talk to your child and decide on an action for each of the sound makers you have and practise each one.

For example:

shaker – jiggle all over

bell – circle your arms

drum – jump up and down

Tell your child to turn their back and perform the actions as you randomly play the different sounds.

Make sure you reverse roles to keep it fun!

Items needed: Collect three distinct sound-makers using items you have in the house: shaker, bell, toy drum

TAPPING TIME

Show your child the items you have gathered together. Tap each of the items in turn and listen to the sound it makes. Then go behind a barrier with one of each item and tap an item for your child to copy on their corresponding item.

You could play two or more to see if they can copy in correct sequence.

If you feel creative, you could make up a story incorporating the sounds. And your child might also be inspired to create a sound story!

Items needed: 2 wooden spoons

2 each of items such as:

- plastic food tray
- card food tray or card box
- foil tray
- ceramic mug
- empty can



MAKE A SOUND

Choose an everyday item and take turns to make a noise with it. See how many different noises you can make. For example, with an empty plastic bottle you can; *blow across the lid, roll it, tap it, drop it, scrape it and squash it.*

Items needed: Suitable household objects such as:

- empty plastic bottle
- empty egg carton
- child's bike

