

Supporting Attention And Listening Skills At Home

Here are some simple, practical suggestions that you can carry out on a daily basis at home to help develop your child's attention and listening skills.

When you are chatting, spending some quiet time or playing with your child, get down to their level, give them your full attention – switch off the tv, put the mobile phone away.

Show interest and enthusiasm in what they are saying. This will demonstrate to your child that you are listening to them. It will help them concentrate and listen.

Share a storybook – talk about the pictures, sing/say nursery rhymes together. Don't be afraid to repeat the same stories and rhymes. Children enjoy repetition and it is good for language development.

You may have to gain your child's attention by saying their name, gentle touch, looking at them before you talk to them.

When talking to your children use simple language, repeat if you think they have not understood. Use gesture, pointing etc, to help them listen and understand what you are saying.

