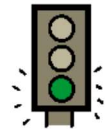


Listening and attention – activities

Listening for everyday sounds – Listen out for the sounds around you (e.g. washing machine, dog barking, cars driving, birds singing, etc.). Talk about the sounds – are they noisy or quiet? Go for a *listening walk* outdoors or around your home – what sounds can you hear?

Ready... steady... go! – This can be any game or activity where your child has to wait until you say 'go' before they respond. Try pausing for different lengths of time. Keep it fun and exciting and your child will be motivated to wait in anticipation.

- Kick or throw a ball when you hear 'go'.
- Build a tower and knock it down when you hear 'go'.
- Go down the slide when the adult says 'go' or try a running race.
- Blow bubbles, your child can pop them when you say 'go'.
- Make a ramp using a piece of cardboard against a piece of furniture. Wait for 'go' before letting a car go down. This works well for marble runs too.
- Make your own skittles with empty bottles or toilet roll tubes. Wait for 'go' before knocking them down.



Getting warmer – Like 'hide and seek' but you make a sound louder or quieter as your child gets nearer or further away from a hidden object.

Musical statues – Listen out for the music stopping... then freeze!



Listen to the beat – Play with musical instruments, tap on a container or surface, or simply clap out a rhythm. Encourage your child to join in and copy you, or to march to the beat.

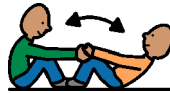
Animal sounds – Collect some animal toys or pictures in a bag. Make an animal sound for your child to find (e.g. 'Listen – can you find an animal that says sss?' – *snake*).



Simon says... – Encourage your child to listen to the instruction before carrying out the action (e.g. 'Simon says... touch your nose. Simon says... stamp your feet.').

Run and touch – Choose 3 or 4 things you can see outside. Give directions for your child to follow (e.g. 'Run to the... gate!'). Once your child can do this, add another step (e.g. 'Run to the gate and then the tree.').

Pretend shops – Take turns to be the shopkeeper and customer and give directions to follow (e.g. 'Can I have an apple... Get me an apple and a banana...' etc.).



Nursery rhymes – Have fun singing songs and rhymes together. Once your child knows the rhyme, leave gaps for them to fill in (e.g. 'Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great...'). The Bookbug website and app have a great song and rhyme library if you need more suggestions.

Books – Look at books together. If your child is not yet ready to listen to whole stories, encourage them to join in with their favourite parts. Choose short, repetitive books with simple rhymes, pictures you can talk about, or interactive parts (e.g. lift the flap).

