



SEND Support Services:

Attention and Listening



Age Range: Early years-Primary age

Who can use this: Parents/Teachers/TAs,

When to seek extra support:

- If you feel your child is not making progress

Who needs this?

Everyone!!! Being able to listen and pay attention are the fundamental building blocks of all communication.

What can you do?

- Reduce distractions and background noise where possible by switching off the TV during 'Special' listening and talking time.
- Be realistic about how long your child can attend for.
- Gain your child's attention before giving instructions or having conversations by asking them to stop what they are doing and using their name first.
- Refocus your child's attention when necessary to keep them on task by calling their name, touching their arm, gaining eye contact.
- Remember to use the right level of language for your child. Use short, simple sentences.
- Remind your child what good listening skills are; good sitting, looking and listening and give positive feedback.
- Choose toys and games that your child enjoys. Follow your child's lead during play and talk about things that interest them. Gradually introduce listening for information and taking turns to maintain their interest.
- Try playing games and activities little and often.

SEND SUPPORT SERVICES: Speech and Language Team

Aesca House, South View, Ashington, Northumberland NE63 0SF, Tel 01670 624802

FACEBOOK: <https://m.facebook.com/speechandlanguageteam/?ref=bookmarks>

Activities to try:



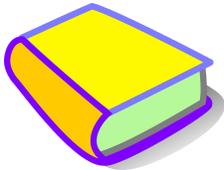
Tidy up time - Make tidy up time a game. Ask your child to put the toys away that you name.

Bathtime - Tell your child where to put bubbles, 'put them on your nose', 'put them on your tummy'.



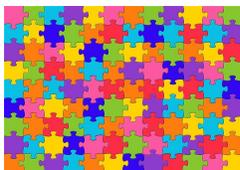
Jump and Touch - Identify 4 or 5 different things inside, such as a chair, book shelf, toy box, door. Say 'jump to the door, and then to make it harder 'Jump to the chair and then the book shelf.'

Silly Stories -Warn your child that you are going to make mistakes as you read a story and they have to spot them. Read a familiar story and make errors. Change names, places, actions and events. How many can your child hear?



Personalised Stories—Make up a story about your children or substitute a character's name in a familiar story. Every time you say your child's name they have to stand up.

Hide and seek - Encourage your child to hide up to eight objects around the room outside. Ask your child to find the one you ask for. When they can do this, ask them to find two and so on.

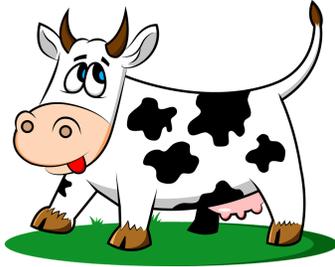


Jigsaws, Shopping -Make up jigsaw puzzles and take it in turns to find 10 things in the picture. Set up a pretend shop and ask your child to go to the shop and buy some items.

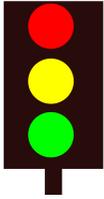
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Cookery - Use a simple, familiar recipe and take it in turns to give each other instructions such as, 'pour the milk', 'crack the egg', 'stir the flour and eggs'.



Follow the sound - Hide an alarm clock, phone and ask your child to find it. What animal made that sound? Have your child sit with their back to you and make different animal sounds. Ask your child to guess what animal makes that sound. By making a magical sound box you can play guess the everyday object in the same way using keys, paper, beans.



Go games – Give instructions, but your child must wait until you say 'go'. Wait between the directions and go and gradually make the instructions harder. 'Touch your toes- go', 'stand on one leg and nod your head-go'. Use a car run or encourage your child to pass a ball but wait for 'go'



Eye spy – Provide I spy instructions but provide a clue eg I' spy with my little eye something that you can read and has pictures'. (Try to be careful about looking at objects as this will give your child a clue)



Picture Skittles – Stick pictures of skittles or plastic bottles. Name a picture and ask your child to knock down this skittle. Make it harder by increasing the number of skittles to knock down.

Musical chairs, copy cat games These can also be fun to play and involve listening to music, responding when it stops and copying silly and fun phrases.

The possibilities available are as broad as your imagination and limited only to what you can find in your home/setting

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Useful Links for more ideas and information

<https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents/listen-up/>

www.afasic.org.uk

literacytrust.org.uk/category/listening-attention/

<http://www.virtualspeechcenter.com/app/>

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