

## Games and Ideas

There are many games you can play which will develop your child's attention and listening. Here are some suggestions...

- Ready, steady, go games where your child has to wait until you say 'go' before s/he can do something e.g. throw a ball or roll a car to you
- Share books with your child. Ask questions and encourage your child to tell you parts of more familiar stories
- Play a shopping game. You will need to set out some things to buy on a table. Ask your child to buy 2 items. When they are good at this you could ask them for 3 items
- Party games like Simon Says, Musical Statues or Kim's game are useful for developing listening and attention

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development please speak to your child's teacher or contact your health visitor or doctor.

You can also call the speech and language call management centre 02896158100

## Developing Your Child's Attention and Listening Skills





## **What are attention and listening skills?**

- Attending to instructions and not being distracted by other noises
- Your child may have good hearing but poor listening skills. This is because listening is an active process and your child needs to learn to pay attention to what s/he hears
- Listening skills develop from an early age and are essential for language development and learning

## **How will I know if my child has poor attention and listening skills?**

- Your child may be very distractible, finding it difficult to sit still
- Your child may lose interest in stories very quickly
- Your child may move about from one activity to another without finishing either
- Your child may give poor eye contact
- Your child may not respond to simple instructions



## **How can I encourage my child's attention and listening skills?**

- Try to reduce background noise. Make sure the TV or radio are not on all day. Your child will learn more from play without these distractions
- Encourage your child to look at you before you giving an instruction
- Try to be face to face with your child when you are having conversations. This will make it easier for your child to listen and respond appropriately to what is being said
- Encourage your child by praising good listening
- Make your child more aware of how to listen by saying e.g. "Look at me" or "Let's finish this before we draw a picture"
- Give your child short simple instructions
- Encourage your child to ask you to say things again if they haven't understood or forgotten the instruction
- Encourage your child to finish one activity before starting another e.g. "Lets finish this and put it away before we paint"