

Attention and Listening



Get their attention

Use their name and gain eye contact with your child before talking to them or giving them an instruction.

Remember the environment

Go to a quieter, less busy room; switch off the TV, radio or other distractions. Only introduce a few toys at a time.

Focus of attention

Get down to the child's level, can they see the book, or your face or the object you want them to look at.

Follow their lead and talk about what they are playing with or interested in.

Be an Interesting speaker

Show enthusiasm; vary your pitch, volume and intonation-use silly voices when reading a story.

Emphasise body language and facial expression when talking.

Use gestures and objects as clues to help your child understand.

Slow Down and Pause

Give them time take information in and process it.

Information needs to be given in short chunks, with repetition. Break directions down into single instructions.

Keep it interesting and fun.

Children learn by listening, seeing and touching / doing so try use all of these senses when playing and interacting with them.

Children's Speech and Language Service

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Early activities

- Peek-a-boo
- Action songs and rhymes
- Ready, steady, go games
- Responding to noises- Make noises with rattles, keys, instruments then see if your child turns to the noise
- Blowing bubbles
- Building towers then take turns to knock them over
- Take turns completing jigsaws, posting items

Other activities

- Simon says
- Lotto, snap and pairs games
- Looking at story books
- When shopping, make a picture shopping list with three or more items on it, tell the child what they are and see if they can find them.
- Musical instruments. Make shakers or other 'noise makers'. Take it in turns to make a noise and the other one then has to copy
- Sorting games where everyone takes turns to sort by colour, shape, size etc.
- Musical statues, musical chairs, pass the parcel
- Anticipation songs such as 'ten fat sausages'
- Jobs around the house – putting the shopping away or putting the washing on, start by asking them to find one item, then gradually
- increase the number of things they are expected to do
- Place 4 items on the floor. The children then close their eyes then once they open them they have to try to guess which item you have removed
- 'I Spy'
- Snakes and Ladders