

Games and Activities to Help Develop Attention and Listening

- **'Ready, Steady, Go! Games'** The child is encouraged to wait until you've said "go" before each turn. Increase the length of time (s)he has to wait for the word, "go".

Ideas to try

- **Roll a ball/car** between you and child.



- **Build a tower** of bricks or stacking cups together and knock it over,
- Child pinches the end of an inflated **balloon** and waits for "go" before they let go of the balloon
- Play with a **click clack track/ garage**. Child waits for "go" before sending the car down the chute/track.



- **Use shakers or drums**. Child waits for you to say "go" before they can play the instrument.
- Child waits for you to say "go" before they can run to pop the **bubbles**.

- **Take turns** in simple games. Increase the amount of time the child will sit to take turns.

Ideas to try

Take turns to.....

- add a brick to a tower.
- put a piece in a jigsaw.
- post pictures in a post-box.
- roll a ball to each other.



- **Hide and seek**

Ideas to try

- **Hide** things that make a noise (e.g. a wind-up toy, musical box). See if child can find the toy by listening to the sound.
- **Hide** behind a chair and make a sound such as a giggle. See if child can find you.
- Fill yoghurt pots with different things, e.g. rice, bells, shake them and **listen to the different sounds**. If you have two the same, play a game at finding the ones that have the same sound.



- **Action songs and rhymes**

Ideas to try

- **Sing songs** together such as “Wind the Bobbin Up” or “The Wheels on the Bus” and encourage child to join in and copy the actions.
- Leave pauses in the song so that child has a chance to fill in the gaps.
- Use a wooden spoon to bang different surfaces, for example, the bottom of a plastic mixing bowl, bottom of a pan, the floor, a metal table leg. Listen to the different sounds. Bang along to the rhythm of the song.

- **Play listening games**

Ideas to try

- Use **sound lotto** games. You can download applications on some mobile phones, look on the internet or you could buy/make one. Play the sounds and see if the child can point to the picture that matches the sound.
- Make noises with rattles, keys, instruments and see if the child turns to the noise.
- Go for a Listening Walk- talk about all the sounds you can hear, such as birds singing, cars brrruming, people chattering, phones ringing.
- Use **musical instruments**. See if the child can copy the number of beats or shakes.
- Play ‘Musical Bumps’- dance to the music then bump to the floor when the music stops.



- **More games**

Ideas to try

- **Stories** - look at books together and encourage the child to sit and listen and join in with their favourite parts of the story.
- **Play “Simon says....”** Encourage the child to listen to the instruction before carrying out the action, for example, clap your hands, touch your nose, stamp your feet.
- **Play musical statues** - the child listens for when the music stops and then stops dancing.

