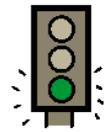


## Listening and attention – activities

**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'. Pause to hold your child's attention, and gradually increase the length of time they have to wait. Keep it fun and exciting and your child will be motivated to wait in anticipation.

- Blow up a balloon or blow bubbles. Pause before you say 'go'.
- Build a tower and knock it down.
- Go down the slide, or try a running race or chase game.
- Make a car ramp or marble run. Pause and wait for 'go'.



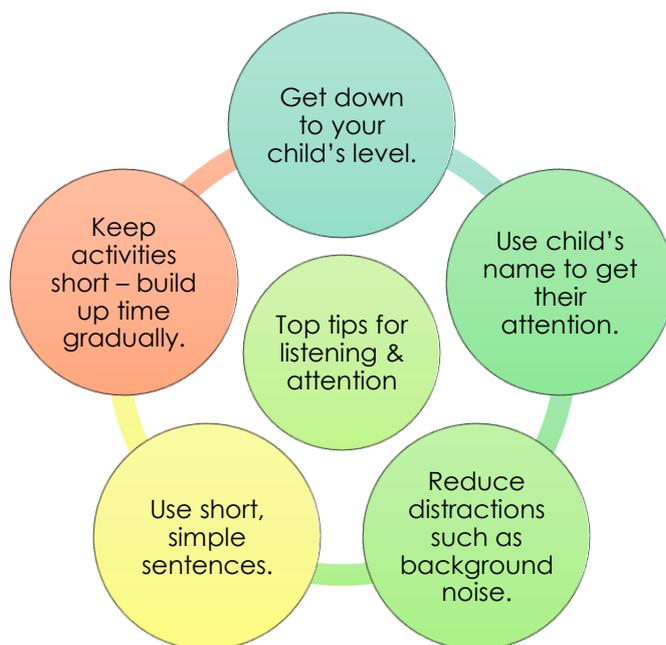
**Listening games** – Hide some noisy toys or objects in a bag, encourage your child to identify what made the sound. Try listening games with animals or vehicles – make the sound and encourage your child to identify and copy the sound (e.g. 'Listen – can you find an animal that says sss?').

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



**Listen to the beat** – Play with musical instruments, or simply clap out a rhythm. Have fun making noisy/quiet sounds and fast/slow rhythms. Encourage your child to join in and copy you.

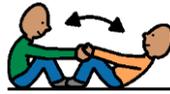
**Simon says...** – Encourage your child to listen to the instruction before carrying out the action (e.g. 'Simon says... touch your nose. Simon says... stamp your feet.').



**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.



**Books** – Look at books together. Enjoy sharing books in any way your child enjoys. They may not be ready to listen to whole stories, but encourage them to join in with their favourite parts. You could try short, repetitive books with simple rhymes, pictures you can talk about, or interactive parts (e.g. lift the flap or touch/feel).



