



Why work on Listening?



- Children learn by watching others speak and listening to clear models of single sounds. Usually, young children hear sounds said rapidly in words and in sentences. Listening games give your child opportunities to hear lots of clear models of single sounds.
- Some children find it difficult to discriminate (hear the differences) between speech sounds. If your child cannot discriminate between the speech sounds then they will find it difficult to say them in words.
- Listening activities relieve the pressure on your child to say the sounds that he/she finds difficult. Your child's confidence will develop and will make them feel more comfortable when experimenting with saying the sounds later on.
- Listening to the sounds, associating the sounds with a letter or picture and talking about the features and characteristics of the speech sounds is very important. This gives your child language with which to talk about the speech sounds. This helps your child understand what he is trying to do.



Early Sounds Listening



Ideas for listening to everyday sounds

- Use a selection of everyday objects e.g. crisp packet, keys. (You need two sets of each object) Demonstrate the sound each object makes and place objects on floor for children to see. Keep your set of objects hidden, and make a sound with one of them. Children to identify which object made the sound they heard.
- Sing a simple 'What's in the box' song and cue children in to listening for sounds e.g. 'What's in the box, what's in the box, everybody listen...what's in the box'. You can make the sound, then show children the object and name it or ask the children what object they think made that sound (matching to objects they can see or generating their own ideas as appropriate.)
- Listen to an audio of different sounds and ask children to identify the noises they hear. These can be sounds around the home e.g. doorbell, TV or you could make a tape of 'sounds around nursery' which children will also be familiar with and relate to.
- Listening lotto – children to match sounds that they've heard to a lotto board. You can buy sound lotto games, or make your own using sounds from the child's environment. (home/nursery)
- Hide an object in the room. Children to listen, try and identify where the object is, then find it in the room. You could extend this by asking children what object they think it is before they find it.
- Animal corners – put animal pictures in each corner of the room. Put toy animals in a bag or box – don't let children see it. Make the animal noise and encourage the children to listen and find the picture to match the sound. Show them the matching toy, and emphasise the sound the animal makes.