



SENSORY &
COMMUNICATION
SUPPORT SERVICE
SenCom



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LISTENING LEAFLET

**Good hearing (the detection of sound)
is essential for listening.**

Listening is a skill children have to learn. There are different levels of listening that children move through as they develop.

The child needs to be able to focus on the right information. They need to filter out sounds and distractions. They also need access to opportunities where listening can be supported e.g. nursery rhymes and book sharing. It is usual for young children to require practice to develop their listening skills.

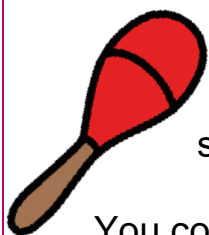
There are many reasons why your child may have difficulties with listening. It is important you discuss your child's individual needs with any appropriate professionals e.g. teacher, GP, audiologist, speech and language therapist, or school nurse.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP LISTENING SKILLS

Practice some of these with your child a few times a week.

NOISEMAKERS

Make a sound shaker out of an old plastic bottle. Give it to your child. Say to your child that they need to wait until they hear you say 'go!' before they can shake the shaker. Say to them that when they hear 'stop!' they must stop. Pause. Then say 'ready, steady, go!' Let them shake the shaker, then say 'stop!' If the child stops, praise them for good listening.



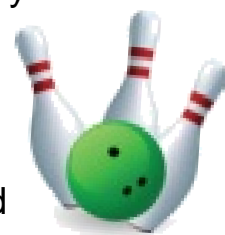
You could finish the game by giving them a sticker for good listening. Progress to encouraging your child to copy sound patterns e.g. you shake three times, then ask the child to copy.

SOUND MATCHING

Use musical instruments/sound shakers. Make a sound while the child looks away. They must find the instrument/shaker that makes the same sounds. As they improve, try making two or three sounds and see if they can copy these in the correct order.

SKITTLES

Make skittles out of old plastic bottles. Tell your child that they can roll the ball when you say 'go!' Pause. Say 'ready, steady, go!' Child rolls the ball. Take it in turns to knock skittles over.



READY, STEADY, GO!



Make a ramp. Take it in turns to hold a toy car or ball at the top. Say to your child that they should not let go until you say 'go!' Say 'ready, steady, go!' or '1, 2, 3, go!' Child lets go of toy or ball. You could join in and see whose ball or car gets to the bottom first.

SIMON SAYS

Play 'Simon Says' type games e.g. 'Simon Says clap your hands', 'Simon Says wave your arms', or 'Simon Says shake your head'. *Grandparents.com* for how to play 'Simon Says'.



LISTENING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Child sits still and listens for thirty seconds. They must then recall the sounds they hear. Or, go for a walk. Child must identify any sound they hear then recall as many as they can when they get back.



SHOPPING GAME/POSTING

Collect and/or make cards with pictures and words of food. Make a post box from a cardboard box. Call out one, two or three named items. Your child posts the correct card(s)

LISTENING AND IDENTIFYING EVERYDAY SOUNDS

The child listens to a recording of everyday sounds and tries to identify what it is e.g. a dog barking. You could use an app on your phone/tablet for this activity.



SONGS AND RHYMES

Ring a ring a roses.... Hokey Cokey.... The wheels on the bus....
This is the way we... I'm a little tea pot.... Five little speckled frogs.

Sing familiar songs and leave gaps for your child to fill in.

REVISIT AN OLD FAVOURITE

Bring out one of your child's favourite books and read it aloud pausing at key points to let your child say the words that come next. You could also read your child the story and purposely change key words for your child to spot.



HIDE AND SEEK

For example, hide a ticking clock in the room. Encourage your child to listen and find it.

Hide an object in the room. Give clear instructions to your child to follow and find the object e.g. go forward two steps, turn left.

SELECTIVE LISTENING TASKS

Child is told a word they must listen for. Adult then either says individual words or tells a simple story. Each time the target word is mentioned, the child must put a brick on a tower or bead in a cup. See how many items can be collected.



BARRIER GAMES

Use a barrier/screen (piece of cardboard) to separate you and your child while instructions are being given. Give clear step by step instructions for your child to follow. Complete a short task e.g. drawing a house, building a Lego tower, threading beads. You complete the task at the same time as your child behind the screen. At the end of the task remove the screen and compare your results.

AUDIO BOOKS

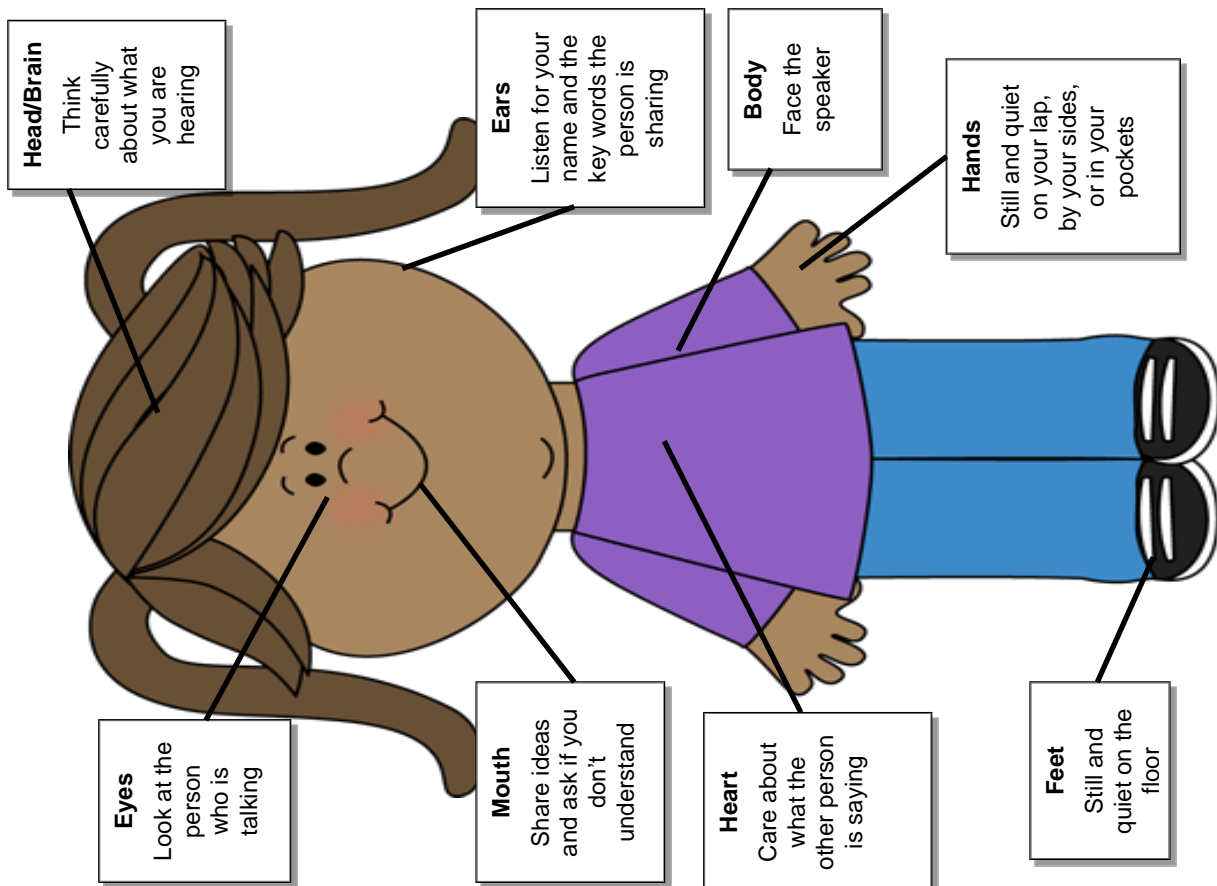
Use audio books and encourage your child to listen and follow the text. Talk together about what they have heard. You could also compare some of the audio books with films that you have seen.

COOK TOGETHER

Find a recipe. Read the directions out loud one step at a time. Your child should follow the instructions to weigh, measure etc.



Whole Body Listening Child



Whole Body Listening Adult

