

Attention and Listening



Worcestershire Speech and Language
Early Years' Service

★	Reduce the background noise made by people talking, TV, iPads or any other technology as much as possible so your child has the best chance of hearing what you are saying.
★	Play somewhere quiet without distractions. Try to avoid too many toys out at once, a choice of 2 things is often enough.
★	Call your child's name and make sure they are looking at you before asking them to do something. You might need to tap them on the shoulder or hold their hands to make sure you have their full attention.
★	Encourage your child to stop what they are doing before giving them an instruction
★	Keep instructions short and simple. Tell your child what you want them to do rather than what you don't want them to do, e.g. "Walk", rather than "don't run"
★	Get down to your child's level and make sure you have eye contact with them so you know they are listening.
★	Always encourage your child to finish what they are doing but keep activities short and fun. Join in their play to help them do this
★	Show your child how to take turns, eg "Mummy's turn...Billy's turn". Later introduce more people to play so that your child learns to wait longer for their turn.

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