

Games to develop listening and attention skills

Stop and listen - to sounds around you and talk about them.

- a car going past
- the doorbell or the telephone
- the birds outside
- a dog barking

Ready, Steady, Go - play any repetitive game e.g. building a tower, pushing a car, kicking a ball, blowing bubbles, splashing in the water tray. Get your child to wait until you say 'go'. You can increase the time between 'ready, steady' and 'go' gradually. Wait for your child to look at you and listen for the next word. Take it in turns to encourage your child to say 'Ready steady go' for you too.

Hiding game - Hide a toy that makes a sound. Bring your child into the room and encourage them to stop and listen then find the toy that makes the sound. You could use things like egg timers, battery operated toy, a ringing phone.

Sound making - with a musical instrument or shaker (you can make one of these), shake or play at making sounds. Encourage your child to copy the sounds you make. Try giving instructions such as shake and stop, bang and stop. This make take some practice!

Peek-a-boo - Use a scarf or tea towel to play peek a boo. Take it in turns and encourage the game to last longer each time you play.

Inset puzzles - Remove all the pieces and put them in a bag, naming them as you do. Take it in turns to take a piece from the bag and name it before putting it in the right place.

You can also place all the puzzle pieces on the table and tell each other which ones to put back (i.e. "Put back the car", "Put back the house and the cat")