

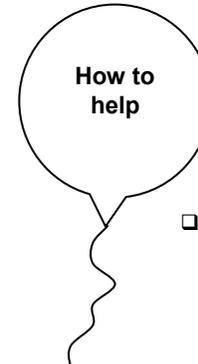


### Attention & Listening

Attention and listening are important in all areas of learning. Children learn from what they see and hear going on around them. They need to make sense of what they can hear, e.g. outdoor sounds, sounds in the home, people talking. As they listen to sounds and words they will begin to learn what they mean.

### Children go through several stages

- Stage 1 Children have **fleeting** concentration and are easily distracted.
- Stage 2 Children can concentrate for **some time** on activities they enjoy.
- Stage 3 Children can stop what they are doing to listen and look at something else, with adult help. They **may still be distracted** by noises around them.
- Stage 4 Children can now **concentrate and listen** well without adult help.



### How to help

- ❑ Find a quiet room, switch off the TV or background music, especially when playing with your child or reading a story.
- ❑ Gain your child's attention by saying their name, touching or holding their hand, and encourage them to look at you.
- ❑ Use short sentences, talk about what your child is looking at.
- ❑ Draw your child's attention to sounds and where they are coming from, e.g. door bell, hairdryer, dog barking.
- ❑ Encourage them to listen to things that make noises, e.g. squeaky toys, whistles, musical instruments.

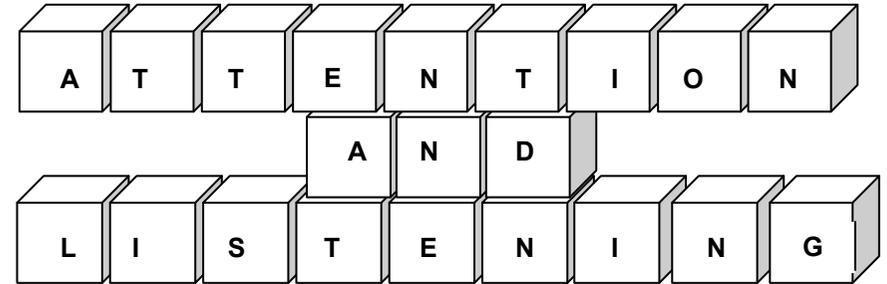


### REMEMBER:

Listen to your child as well as asking them to listen to you.



- ❑ **Action songs / rhymes**  
 Help your child to join in with the actions in the song/rhyme.
- ❑ **"Ready, steady, go" games**  
 Building a tower, bubbles, pushing a car, skittles, balloons. Help your child to wait until you say "go".
- ❑ **Finding sounds**  
 Use a musical toy or ticking clock and hide it in a room. Help your child to find out where the noise is coming from.
- ❑ **Animal sounds**  
 Use pictures of animals or toy animals. Make an animal noise and then ask your child to find the matching animal.
- ❑ **Hide and seek**  
 Hide two objects, letting your child watch you as you do it. See if they can go and find each object as you ask for it.
- ❑ **'Lift the flap' books**  
 Help your child concentrate on the story and discover what is behind the flap.



Before children learn to speak they have to learn to listen and pay attention to the noises and language used around them.

Some children find concentrating and listening very difficult even when they have good hearing. They may:

- ❑ Flit from one activity to the next
- ❑ Be easily distracted
- ❑ Not be able to follow simple instructions

This leaflet provides information on how attention and listening develop and how you can help.

Your Speech & Language Therapist is:  
 ..... Tel: .....