



Attention and Listening Strategies for the classroom

Rules for Good Listening (also see poster 'Listening Rules')

- ❑ Sit still
- ❑ Look at the speaker
- ❑ Only talk when it's your turn
- ❑ Think about the words
- ❑ Listen to the person speaking.

Environmental Strategies

- ❑ Position the child facing the teacher. (Looking to listen helps).
- ❑ Position the child as close to the teacher as possible. The teacher's voice needs to be louder & clearer than anything else the child is tempted to listen to.
- ❑ Be aware of potential competing sound. The children may have difficulty in knowing what they should be listening to. Even simple strategies such as shutting the classroom door and having a carpeted area helps.
- ❑ Sit the child away from classroom distractions.

Talking Tips

- ❑ Be an interesting speaker.
- ❑ Keep it simple.
- ❑ Repeat it.
- ❑ Be aware of the child's level of understanding.
- ❑ Use child's name to focus attention.
- ❑ Tell children 'It's time to listen'. Incorporate listening breaks.
- ❑ Tell them what you want them to listen for.
- ❑ Use visual clues, eg, Pictures, gestures, objects, facial expression, writing, signs and symbols.

(Reference, Early listening skills for Key Stage 1, Questions Publishing Company.)