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.)