



## Listening and attention

A child's ability to detect sound is present from the earliest stages of development.

From an early age, children recognise familiar sounds and voices.

The ability to attend and listen is a key component of speech and language development, social communication and learning.

It is possible to develop children's listening skills if we teach them how to listen, play games to develop their skills in different areas of listening and incorporate listening work across the different curriculum areas they are involved in.

### Listening rules

These can be taught from an early age so that when we ask children to listen they know what to do.

**Sit still.**

**Look at the person speaking.**

**Think about the words.**

**Wait for your turn to speak.**

It can also help to tell children **when** you want them to listen and **what** you want them to listen for.

### Ways to use good listening rules with children

- Put the poster up in each classroom.
- Focus on one of the rules when you do circle time games.
- Give each child a word and symbol card, which is relevant for them.
- Ask the child to try and remember their rule during an activity.
- Give out good listening stickers at the end of an activity.
- Refer to the poster during a lesson and remind the children about the rules.
- Ask the children to watch you and see if you are sitting well or forgetting to look at the speaker.
- Teach these rules from an early age and use them consistently throughout school.
- Tell the children when it is time to listen .
- Make good listener certificates.
- Make different listening rule mats for children to sit on.
- Ask the children to fetch a listening rule from a class poster with separate symbol and word cards and return them at the end of the lesson.
- Ask the children to reflect on how they did.