

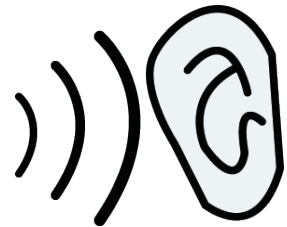
Children's Speech and Language Therapy Ways to Help Build Attention

Easier Activities

Musical Instruments: Play different instruments. Cover and make one of the sounds. Remove the cover. Can they find the one they heard? As they get better add more instruments.

Find the hidden ticking clock/musical instrument: Hide a ticking clock or a musical toy in a room. Can the child find it.

Stop.... Go.... Let each child pick an instrument. Say "Go!"- the children play their instrument. Say "Stop!" - they must stop. To make it harder, let only one child play – the other children stay quiet.



Harder Activities

Follow me: Take turns to be the leader. Start with a simple instruction e.g. "touch your nose". Gradually make them harder e.g. "touch your nose and ears"; say "teacher says" before some of the instruction – they can only do it if "teacher says"; make the instruction longer.

Rhythms and beats: Clap/tap beats with your hands and ask the children to copy .

Shopping Game: Use plastic food, a shopping bag and ask each child to buy things for you. Make it harder: ask for more things, make the shop further away; give more details e.g. "the red apple and the banana". Ask the child to say what they bought.

News Swap: In pairs or small groups each child swaps their news with another child. Children then have to tell the other child's news to the group or class.

Who's That?: One child turns away from the group. Choose another child to say a given word (e.g. animal names, foods etc...). The child says who they think said it.

Barrier Game: Use coloured pencils and paper or two pictures. Put a barrier (large book, box etc...) between you and the child to hide each other's pictures. Give an instruction e.g. "colour the boys shoes brown". Both of you do it. At the end remove the barrier. Are your pictures the same? Make it harder: give longer instructions; take turns to give the instructions; let two children play.

Fruit Salad: The children sit in a circle on chairs. The caller stands in the middle. Give each child the name of a fruit (use pictures to help). The caller says two fruits and they swap chairs.

The caller tries to get to one chair first. The child without a chair then becomes the caller. When the caller says “fruit salad” everyone swaps chairs. Try using other topic words. e.g. colours, shapes, animals.

Listen for Story Words or Mistakes: Read out a story and ask the children to listen for certain words or make mistakes. The children have to put up their hand when they hear the word or a mistake. Can they tell you the mistakes?