

Let's Listen and Learn!

School involves a lot of listening to grown-ups. Practising listening skills before a child starts school will help them get off to a great start!



Good listeners

Encourage listening skills by being a good listener yourself. Give children plenty of opportunity to talk to you. Chat about their play or their day and ask for their views.

On the same level

When you are talking to a child – make eye contact. Get down to their level whenever possible.



Attention Please

Minimise distractions by turning off TVs and ignoring phones and computers – especially during meals, stories, baths and bedtime

Listening Games



What can you hear?

Ask children to close their eyes for a minute and tell you everything they can hear: a clock ticking, birdsong, cars...

Traffic Lights

You say a colour and children do an action. Once they've mastered red for stop and green for go, introduce new colours and actions, such as orange for turn around



Deliberate mistakes

Get rhymes or songs deliberately wrong. "Humpty Dumpty sat on the sofa" or "If you're happy and know it clap your ears". Children love to spot the mistake and put it right!