

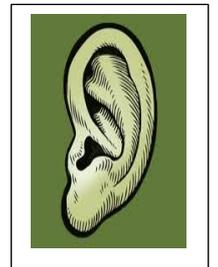


## Top Tips for



# Lovely Listening and Active Attending

Try some of these simple strategies to support your children to be 'Lovely listeners' and 'Active Attenders'



- **Use your child's name** – this helps your child to know that you are talking to them rather than anyone else.
- **Gain eye contact** – encourage your children to look at you so that they can see the movement of your mouth and your facial expressions, this will help to support your child's understanding.
- **Minimise distractions** – turn off the television or try to create quiet spaces so that your child can clearly distinguish your voice and hear what you are saying. Children can find it difficult to locate sounds when they come from a range of places.
- **Use simple language** – Use vocabulary which children can understand when providing instructions and remember that children will need to hear words repeatedly and within a range of contexts before they may use them themselves.
- **Choose the right time to support your child to listen** – Children may find it trickier to listen when they are tired and when they are engrossed in something which has captured their interest. Help them to be successful by supporting their listening skills when they are receptive.
- **Use gestures to support** - Use a range of gesture /actions (or signs) to reinforce what you are saying to children; you will be surprised how much difference these can make.
- **Chunk instructions** – split your instructions and comments into sections so that children can understand one piece of information at a time. Very often children will only hear the last thing that you have said, this suggests that they were not ready or unable to listen, or that the information given may have been overwhelming.
- **Speak at your child's level** – Children learn through modelling. Get down onto your child's level so that they can see the way in which you are forming words.
- **Comment rather than question** – support your child's listening by giving comments rather than asking questions. This will help you to model vocabulary and sentence structures and will take the pressure off your child to respond verbally.
- **Tell your child what good listening is** – this will help your child to know how to be successful; sitting still, listening to all the words, looking at the speaker.
- **Play** – Support your child to learn to listen through playing – role play shopping, turn taking games and listening to environmental sounds are lovely games; just a few of many that can support learning to listen.

We hope that these top tips have been helpful in supporting you to develop your child's listening and attention skills. Most of all – develop consistent approaches so that your children know what to expect! Have fun!