

Attention and Listening // Age 5-7



Copy Me

Start by playing this as a clapping game. You clap a rhythm and your child copies you. Start with 2-3 claps, then gradually build up to longer or more complex rhythms. Your child can then have a go making up a rhythm for you to copy.

Once the child is good at this game, you could use musical instruments – drums and tambourines work well!

Read a story and ask simple questions about it

For example...

- Who? “Who did Little Red Riding Hood visit?”
- What....? “What did she take to Grandma?”
- Where....? “Where did she meet the Wolf?”



Your child may need to be told what to listen out for (‘I’m going to ask you **who** is in the story, so listen carefully’) before telling the story. You can also start by reading just a few lines of the story, then asking a question. Gradually build up the amount of information the child has to listen to.

Listening to Silence

Make your child aware of sound and silence. Sit quietly for a minute and ask the child to whisper or write anything they could hear, e.g. neighbour breathing, aeroplane, clock ticking, a person coughing etc. You can do this in different settings, e.g. at home, at Gran’s house, in the park.

Read along Stories

Use your child’s favourite stories for this activity. If they know the story really well, you can leave a gap for them to fill in the repetitive phrase or names of the main characters. e.g. “Once upon a time there was a little...”

With less familiar stories, you can show them the pictures or even draw pictures of the words that you want the children to fill in.