

Attention and Listening // Age 7-9

Active listening skills

At school, children will now be learning about active listening skills.



Eyes looking



Ears open



Hands in lap or on table



Feet on floor



Mouth closed

At home, you can give your child feedback on their listening skills. Focus on identifying when they are applying these skills, for example saying 'I can tell you were listening really carefully to that information because you were all looking at me'. You can also reflect on your own listening skills, for example 'sorry, I wasn't listening just then, I kept interrupting. I'll keep my mouth closed whilst you talk this time'.

Interactive Story Time

Tell a short story using pictures. Can your child tell it back with and then without the pictures. Vary this activity by reading a story and then repeating it only making deliberate mistakes. Can your child spot the errors?

Sound effects

Choose a familiar story, and discuss which sound effects might be needed (the sound of a spaceship taking off? the roar of a lion?) Read the story and pause at the appropriate spot for your child to add a sound effect using voice or instruments.

Simon Says

Start off with the simple form of the game, i.e. purely copying. Only later introduce the idea of not responding if the instruction doesn't start with "Simon says ..."

I Went Shopping

The first player starts with 'I went shopping and I bought...' then chooses something they'd like to buy. The next player has to repeat the phrase recalling what you said and then adding their own item. Other topics can also be used e.g. "I went on holiday and I took my ..."