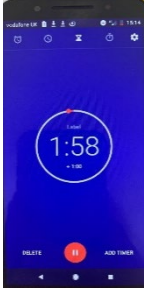


Attention and listening Activities

HIDE THE PHONE



While your child is out of the room, set the timer on your phone to go off in a minute or two and hide it somewhere safely accessible to your child.

When your child returns to the room, ask your child to listen for the sound and locate your phone.

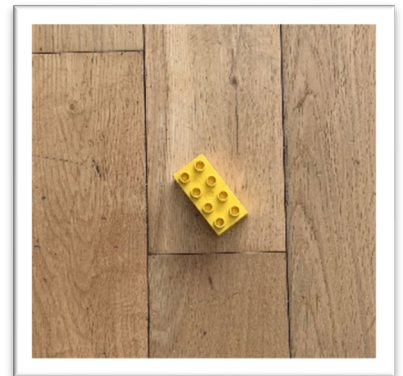
Items required: phone or a timer

WHAT DID I DROP?

Collect a few small household items made from different materials (metal, wood, plastic, rubber). With your child, drop each one on to the table and listen to the sound. *Ensure each item has a sound distinct from the others.* Your child then turns his back and identifies the item you drop.

Make sure you have a go also – *you* might make some mistakes!

Items required: coin, paper clip, Lego brick, wooden block, battery, bouncy ball, marble, ball of foil, pack of tissues, pencil, pebble



LISTENING OUTDOORS



When outside with your child, play a game where you raise a hand when you hear something. When someone raises a hand, everyone must stop and listen.

What is it?

Is it near or far away?

Can we see it?

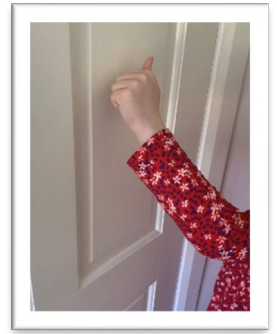
LISTENING INDOORS

With your child, sit still and make no sound for 30 seconds.

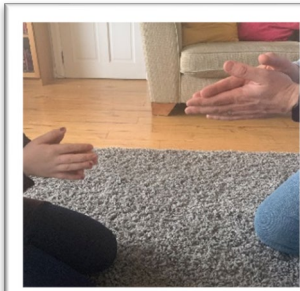
This can be challenging!

Then each person tells what they heard. What made the sound? Was it near or far away?

If you repeat this on different occasions you should find that your child, and perhaps you also, will become aware of sounds that you don't normally register.



COPY MY ACTIONS



Ask your child to watch you as you do a simple action. Then ask your child to copy your action. He watches again as you repeat the same action and add another one. Continue to add one more action each time until you feel it is enough.

As a challenge, you could reverse roles so that you copy your child. Your child will now have to recall the sequence first each time, making it a little trickier!

WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL

Show your child a sound maker and then put it behind your back. Give your child one or more simple action commands which your child must wait to do when they hear the sound signal, for example “jump six times then do a twirl!”.

Items needed: Noise maker



MOVE TO THE SOUNDS



Show your child some sound makers. Talk to your child and decide on an action for each of the sound makers you have and practise each one.

For example:

shaker – jiggle all over

bell – circle your arms

drum – jump up and down

Tell your child to turn their back and perform the actions as you randomly play the different sounds.

Make sure you reverse roles to keep it fun!

Items needed: Collect three distinct sound-makers using items you have in the house: shaker, bell, toy drum

TAPPING TIME

Show your child the items you have gathered together. Tap each of the items in turn and listen to the sound it makes. Then go behind a barrier with one of each item and tap an item for your child to copy on their corresponding item.

You could play two or more to see if they can copy in correct sequence.

If you feel creative, you could make up a story incorporating the sounds. And your child might also be inspired to create a sound story!

Items needed: 2 wooden spoons

2 each of items such as:

- plastic food tray
- card food tray or card box
- foil tray
- ceramic mug
- empty can



MAKE A SOUND

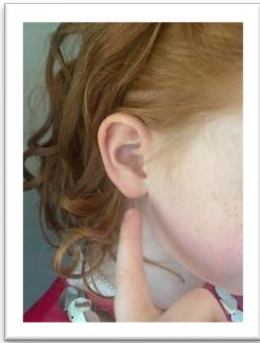
Choose an everyday item and take turns to make a noise with it. See how many different noises you can make. For example, with an empty plastic bottle you can; *blow across the lid, roll it, tap it, drop it, scrape it and squash it.*

Items needed: Suitable household objects such as:

- empty plastic bottle
- empty egg carton
- child's bike



Listening Walk

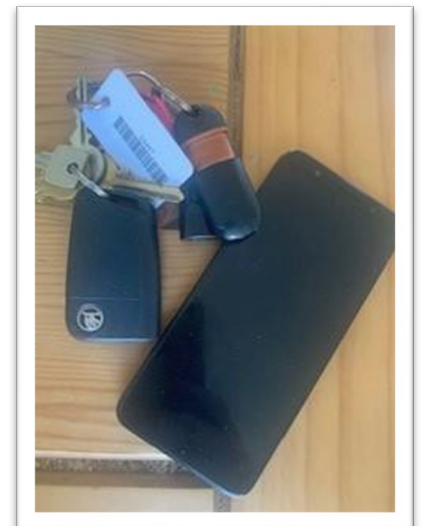


Talk to your child about the sounds they can hear on a walk. Tell them they have to walk very quietly and say what they hear. Different routes will give a variety of listening experiences.

Sounds from around the home

Gather up objects from around your home and see if your child can identify them by the sound they make:

- Keys
- Doorbell
- Squeaky toy
- Mobile phone.



Hidden everyday sounds

Tell your child that they have to listen to you making noise. Make a noise behind a barrier with different materials such as:

- Ripping paper
- Cutting paper with scissors
- Putting a spoon into a bowl
- Pouring liquid
- Jingle keys
- Zip a zip
- Open a packet of crisps.

See how many noises your child can recognise. Take turns to make the noises behind the barrier.



Listen for a target word



Tell your child that they have to clap each time they hear a target word. Tell your child a list of words including the word they have to listen for.

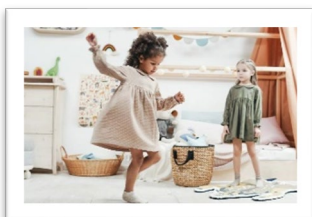
Another way you can play this game is to tell your child that they have to add a building brick to their Lego wall each time they hear the target word.

Snap!

Play a game of 'Snap' with your child.



Simon Says

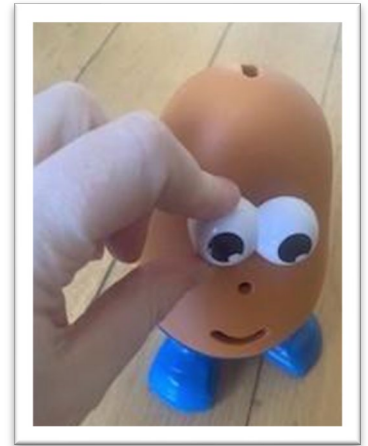


Tell your child that they are going to follow your actions. When you do an action and say, "Do this!", your child has to do the same action, but when you say, "Do that!", your child has to stay still.

Mr Potato Head

Tell your child that they have to listen for the instruction you give to them about Mr Potato Head. Give your child simple instructions to make Mr Potato Head. Encourage your child to take their turn and tell you what to do!

You can also make this a little bit trickier if you add in a Mrs Potato Head too!



Keeper of the keys

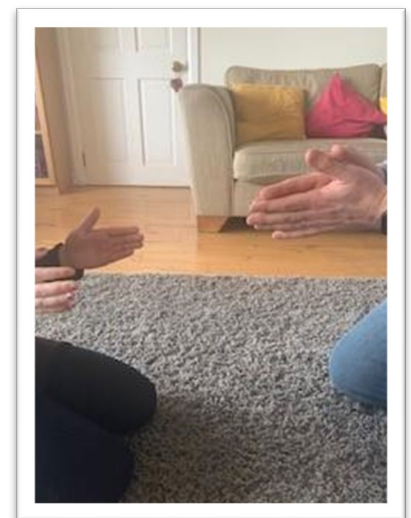


Sit in front of your child on the floor with your keys in front of you. Tell your child that you are going to close your eyes and they have to try to get your keys away from you without you hearing them.

Copy my rhythm!

Sit with your child and tell them that they are going to copy the movements you make. Clap a simple rhythm and ask your child to copy you. Make it trickier by changing the rhythm of the clap.

Tell your child that they can make a rhythm for you to copy now!



Musical Statues



Play some fun music your child enjoys and tell your child that they can move when the music is playing and when the music stops, they have to stop too.

Whispers

Tell your child that they are going to listen to your whisper and they are going to tell another person in your family. Start with whispering one single word. You can build up the words to short phrases and then to entire sentences.



I Spy



Play 'I Spy' with your child but instead of using letters for the clues for the objects, you could try using a description instead.

For example: "I spy with my little eye something that is red", or "I spy with my little eye something that bounces".

Traffic Lights Game

Tell your child that they are going to listen to the colour you say and do the action that links to that colour. You can start with using "Red!" for stop and "Green!" for go and then perhaps add in other colours to do a different action, for example, "Pink!" could mean jump!

