Listening and Talking Ideas

Name That Noise

Close your eyes or use a blindfold. Ask someone to make a variety of sounds around the house (or listen for sounds during a daily walk, as long as it’s safe to close your eyes). Try to identify what you hear. YouTube has some “Name that Noise” clips with a variety of noises, some more difficult than others.

I Spy With Clues

Ask someone for three clues about an object in the room, or on your walk, and try to guess what it might be.

Story Time Follow Up

Choose a favourite book to read or listen to, that you know well. When it’s finished, ask someone to ask you questions about what you have read or heard. They could ask what happened in the beginning/middle/end of the story. Draw a picture of the favourite part of the story to show understanding. Come up with an alternative ending for the story.

Monkey Hear, Monkey Do

Ask someone to produce sound sequences using items around the house (e.g. bang on a table, clap hands, tap a pencil). Try to repeat the sequence. Start simple and build up to more complex sequences.

Simon Says

Teach someone at home how to play Simon Says. See if you can catch each other out as you take turns at leading this game.

How Many?

Ask someone at home to choose a category and see how many things you can name, e.g. “things that have four legs” or “things that are round” etc.

Who am I?

Create a list of celebrities/family members/friends etc with someone at home. Ask them to describe the person to you using clues, you guess who they are describing. Switch over and see if they can guess who you are describing.

I Went to the Shops…

The first player begins by saying “I went to the shops and I bought a…” and adds an object. The second player continues by saying the first players answer, plus their own addition. Continue until someone forgets an object.

Odd One Out

Ask someone to name some objects e.g. “Football, Tennis Ball, Robot” then try to work out which is the odd one out. For challenge they can add more items. This works with people too, for example name two footballers and a singer and ask them to select the odd person out.

Rhyming Tennis

Agree on a rhyme family, e.g. “at as in hat” and take turns at saying a new word that fits the rhyme. See who runs out of rhymes first.

Sound Tennis

Agree on an initial sound and take turns at saying a new word that begins with the sound. See who runs out of words first.

Alphabet Chain

Choose a category and take turns naming an item in the category for each letter of the alphabet.

End of the Word

Listen to the word the previous person said then think of a new word that starts with the last letter of the old word. For example, player one says “dog,” player two says “garden” player three says “notice” and so on.

Group Story

Start the story by saying a sentence. Then the next player carries on the second sentence. Continue until the story is complete or you have run out of ideas. For a follow up activity, you can write the story down.

Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down

Read out a list of true or false statements. Ask someone at home to listen carefully and decide if the statement is true or false. Thumbs up for true, thumbs down for false. Swap roles.

Draw on Demand

Ask someone to describe a scene one step at a time for you to draw. YouTube also has lots of guided drawing tutorials that are simple to listen to and follow.

Listening Walk

Go for a silent walk to see what sounds you can hear. Works inside (walk around the house) or outside. You can discuss and/or draw and write about your findings.