

## Listening Activities

Help your child develop their listening skills by playing games. When you are out for a walk you could see what noises you can hear e.g. birds, traffic, voices, dog barking.

Collect a couple of things you can make noises with and play with them so your child hears the different noises, then play a game of taking turns to close your eyes while someone makes a noise with one of the items and you have to guess which item it was.

Play games which help children locate where sounds are coming from. Take turns to hide a toy or something that makes a noise and see if they can find it by identifying where the noise is coming from.

Play games which involve listening carefully for instructions. You could say jump up, turn around, clap your hands. Can your child listen and remember what to do? You could play Simon Says. Children need to listen carefully to hear if Simon Says to do it or not!

Play games where you need to listen and repeat for example clapping or tapping games. You can do a clapping rhythm like clap, clap, clap, clap, clap and child should copy then change the rhythm e.g. clap, clap, pause, clap, clap, clap.

Play a game where you do something when you hear a special word or type of word e.g. jump up (or sit down or high five etc.) when you hear me say an animal e.g. chair table giraffe shop. Or when I say green run around the garden when I say red stop, when I say yellow jump up and down etc.

You can play listen and remember games like - When I went shopping. You can start by saying when I went shopping I bought a cake. Then the child has to remember and add one on e.g. When I went shopping I bought a cake and a teddy etc.

Children enjoy playing with the sound in words. You can play games with words finding things that sound fun or silly. You can find funny rhyming words like sally, mally, pally, dally (it doesn't matter that they aren't real words it is the repeating sound we are listening for). Children usually find

this kind of thing funny because they know they aren't real words. Try finding funny words that rhyme with names in the family etc.

Play clapping games to words. One clap for every syllable for example the word elephant would be 3 claps (el – e – phant) the word mummy would be 2 claps (mum-my). You can see how many claps are in family names or favourite animals etc. This helps children understand that words can be broken into parts.

Play odd one out games with words, e.g. which word is the odd one out cat, mat, dog, sat? Dog sounds different to cat, mat, sat. Remember for these games you can have fun and use nonsense words, we are working on the sound not the actual word so we could say which word is different - cal, pal, mal, hot?

Play games with words which start with the same sound. This is called alliteration. You can play with names, a good example children know about is Peppa Pig, where all the characters have alliterative names. Rebecca Rabbit, Danny Dog etc. You can try your own family names. Remember it is the sound that is important not the letter for example the name Amy make the "A" sound but Abby makes the "a" sound. So you would need to choose a word with the correct sound so Angel Amy or Adorable Abby, some may have a completely different letter to make the sound e.g. Ewan might need a word like unicorn or useful.