



## Carmarthenshire Communication Support Service

### Attention & Listening Skills

Attention and listening skills are the building blocks for effective language development and learning. Good attention and listening skills are needed so that the child can:

- Follow instructions
- Develop understanding and use of words
- Develop grammar
- Develop speech sound production
- Increase phonological awareness
- Develop literacy skills
- Participate in conversations and class discussions
- Make friends and socialize with peers and adults
- Learn from the world around them

Here are some ideas to help with your child's attention and listening. Short, sharp sessions are better than longer sessions.

1. **Short Stories:** Share short stories and encourage the child to act them out or repeat repetitive elements. You could also make up actions for the story and encourage the child to join in with them.
2. **If you're Happy:** Sing 'If You're Happy/Sad/Angry and You Know It' with the child encouraging them to do appropriate actions for the emotion.
3. **Role Play:** Tell a familiar story and ask the child to act it out. Use dressing up costumes or create a role play area.



4. **Shopping game:** Play a shopping game where the child goes to find items for your shopping basket.
5. **Treasure Hunt:** Make a treasure hunt and give verbal directions to help the child find the objects.
6. **Listen & Colour:** Give the child a sheet to colour. Give instructions related to the picture e.g. "Colour the hat yellow".



7. **Listen For:** Introduce some background noise and read a story. Ask the child to listen for a word and stand up when they hear it.
8. **Musical Stories:** Read a story such as "The Gruffalo". Talk about the sequence of the story and decide on sounds to depict each element. Read the story again playing the instruments at the identified points.
9. **Complex Listen & Do Activities:** Give the child instructions with a variety of elements while they are doing something else e.g. while the child is drawing, ask them to go and get a blue car and a yellow crayon.

