

LISTENING SKILLS

BY AGE

STAGE 1 BIRTH-2 YEARS

- Responds to voice
- Will listen to a short story
- Listens to music
- Pays attention to toys with sound
- Imitates words
- Distracted by noises

STAGE 2 2-4 YEARS

- Will notice sounds in the environment
- Can listen to adult if they stop what they are doing
- Copies animal sounds
- Imitates adults speaking
- Imitates simple songs
- Can easily track source of sounds

STAGE 3 4-5 YEARS

- Puts names to sounds from environment
- Can listen while doing another activity
- Can listen when it is expected
- Practices word sounds
- Can listen without looking at person speaking

STAGE 4 5-6 YEARS

- Can listen well in groups or class
- Can sound out words they read
- Can listen and pay attention to longer stories
- Can filter out distractions

STAGE 5 7-9 YEARS

- Using language to explain what they see
- Using language to explain what they are imagining
- Take turns in conversations
- Can recognize mistakes in people's speaking

STAGE 6 10-12 YEARS

- Actively listening
- Have developed more advanced strategies to listen for comprehension
- Listening to longer books, poetry, etc
- Can follow complex verbal instructions

LISTENING GAMES

NOISE BAND

Have your kids follow and copy the noises you make, starting from quiet noises (whispers and finger taps), up to medium noises (snaps and claps), to really loud noises (stomps and whoops) and then back down again to quiet.

ODD WORD OUT

Say a list of words that all 'go together', and include one word in the list that doesn't fit. Let your kids pick out the odd word. Example: Bear, giraffe, elephant, taco, wolf, gorilla. Which word doesn't belong?

GUESS THAT ANIMAL

Use different animal sounds and take turns seeing who can guess the most animals.

NEAR OR FAR

Take turns having one child close their eyes and the other person make a noise either near or far from the other player. Have your child guess which one the other person did.

SOFT OR LOUD

Take turns having one child close their eyes and the other person make a noise with an item that is either quiet or loud. Have your child guess which one the other person did.

CIRCLE TIME SONGS

Songs that ask your child to follow directions is fantastic. Try songs like Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes or Ring Around the Rosey to help children practice listening and following directions.

RED LIGHT. GREEN LIGHT.

Each player is a "car" while one person calls out colors. If they call red light everyone stops. If they say green light they go. If they throw in a yellow light, everyone walks super slow.

FREEZE DANCE

Turn on the tunes and have everyone freeze when you pause the music. Have fun while honing your listening skills.

DO THREE

When you want to clean up, play this game. "I'm going to tell you to do 3 things. Jump in the air, pick up your socks, Spin in a circle." Now you get to clean up, make it fun, and practice multi-step directions.

SIMON SAYS

I SPY

TONGUE TWISTERS

**KNOCK KNOCK
JOKES**