

Typical Development of Attention and Listening

Level 1 (up to 12 months)

The child is very distractible, and attention flits from one object or person to another.

Level 2 (12 months to 2 years)

The child will concentrate on a task they have chosen. Attention is 'single channelled' ignoring all outside distractions.

Level 3 (2 to 3 years)

Attention is still single channelled, the child cannot listen to an adult whilst playing, but with help can shift their attention to an adult and then back to the task.

Level 4 (3 to 4 years)

The child can shift their attention between a task and an adult's instruction without help.

Level 5 (4 to 5 years)

The child can understand and follow instructions related to their task without stopping to look.

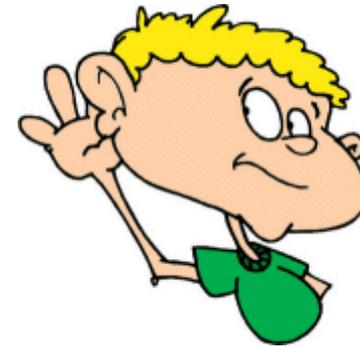
Level 6 (5 years +)

The child can put together information from different senses to attend, listen and do tasks.



Speech and Language Therapy Service

Helping Your Child to Listen



Children who have difficulties with talking often find it hard to listen.

Listening is different from hearing.
For example, we may hear that the TV is on but if we are busy doing something we may not be actually listening to it.

For more information, contact Speech and Language Therapy:
Tel 01535 295652 or

<http://www.airedale-trust.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy/>

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Turn the TV, radio and DVD (or other background sound source) off

Do this whilst you play so that your child can hear you and other people speaking.



Use different sounds to encourage your child to listen attentively.



Encourage your child to turn towards a sound.

At first they need to be quite close to the sound.

For instance:

- Your voice
- The sound of the bath running
- A musical toy

When your child is older they can be further from the sound source and you could try hiding a ticking clock or alarm clock, a radio or noisy toy. See if they can find it by listening for the sound.

Other games:

Play "Musical Statues" and help your child to listen for when the music stops.

Play sound lottos and ask your child to find an object that matches the sound.

Point out and talk about noises around the house

- door banging
- phone ringing
- post coming through the letter box

Build a tower of bricks and then encourage your child to wait until you say GO! before knocking them all down.



Sing Nursery Rhymes together

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
Round and Round the garden
Row the boat
The wheels on the bus
Wind the bobbin up

- ✓ Remember to get down to the level of your child when talking and playing.
- ✓ Encourage looking towards your face to support your communication.
- ✓ For younger children make use of gesture and animate your expressions to encourage interest.
- ✓ Speak slowly and clearly. Give your child time to respond.