

# Teaching Listening

## Barnet EYSEND

This resource has been developed by members of the  
Barnet EYSEND Advisory Team

## Teaching Listening Definition



### Definition:

**Listening** is different to simply hearing.

It means **interpreting different sounds**, while **beginning to understand social interactions**.

# Teaching Listening Targets

## Some sample listening targets for children in Early Years

**Target:** To be able to follow a simple one-step instruction during an adult led small group, activity 3 out of 5 times

**Target:** To be able to follow stop and go instructions in a game with visual support, twice a week

**Target:** To identify correct verb card on request, from a choice of 3, in a small group session once a week

**Target:** To be able to follow a two-step routine instruction during an adult led small group activity, 2 out of 5 times

**Target:** To be able to fill in the gap of a familiar rhyme or song when modelled by an adult, 3 out of 5 times

**Target:** To be able to follow simple routine instructions during a larger group activity with minimal adult support, 2 out of 5 times

# Teaching Listening Strategies



Use the 4s: Say my name; stay near me; simple language; same level



Pausing and giving processing time

Modelling language in a non-pressured way i.e not asking child to respond

Repeating things consistently over a period of time / revisiting

Using familiar known activities / resources that follow the child's interests



Clearly labelled /demarcated areas for ease of access

Joining in the child's play and mimicking their language and gestures

Positive praise and reinforcement

# Teaching Listening Activities & Tips

## Listening indoor games

- What's in the bag/box – different materials/instruments that make different sounds.
- Sound lotto.
- Simon says...touch your toes.
- Musical statues/bumps .
- What Sound is That? Listening to everyday sounds and recognizing what they are.
- Clapping/instruments – copying sounds

## Listening outdoor games

- Action game - do a star jump and touch your toes, run to the slide and pat your head.
- Go on a sound scavenger hunt - exploring objects for sound.
- Red Light, Green Light – using the bikes/scooters and traffic lights to stop and go.
- Traffic Lights - Green – Go! Run around the space, Red – Stop, Amber – Walk on the spot, waiting

## Listening activities

- Bucket activity – using highly motivating objects to develop attention and listening.
- Playdough activity – model and instruct i.e. roll, pat, squeeze.
- Dress the teddy/dolly – give instructions
- Story time - with story sacks or objects, actions etc.
- Sound walk – listening to different sounds indoors and outdoors.
- Language enrichment programme games e.g. posting objects; what's under the blanket

## Listening songs

- Old Macdonald had a farm.
- Wheels on the bus.
- Heads, shoulders, knees and toes
- Everybody do this...
- If you are happy and you know it...clap you hands.
- Here we go round the Mulberry bush
- Five Little Ducks/Five Little Speckled Frogs.
- All of us are playing together – instrument song.



## Tips

- Use...ready, steady... go!
- Using countdowns i.e. sand timer, countdown strip etc.
- Use objects of reference to support routines, communication etc.
- Now and next boards.
- Visual timetable.
- SSSR – Same level, Say name, Stand by, Reduce language.