**Ideas for developing auditory memory skills**

**What is auditory memory?**

Auditory memory is being able to hold the things you hear in your memory, in the right order, for long enough to be able to process the information. Children who find it difficult to learn new concepts, follow instructions and remember information sometimes have auditory memory difficulties.

**Ideas to support development of auditory memory skills**

* Give only one instruction at a time and break longer instructions into smaller steps, using visual prompts (pictures or objects)
* Play word games like ‘I went to the shop and I bought…’ where each player repeats the item from the previous players and adds a new one. This works well in a small group,
* Part fill 2/3 empty plastic bottles to make sound shakers. Use things that make distinctly different sounds; pasta, sand, marbles. Take it in turns to close your eyes and listen as they are shaken then identify the right sound to the right bottle
* Share a book with a repetitive phrase e.g. Brown Bear, Brown Bear (Bill Martin) and leave time for the child to join in the repetitive phrase. This can also be used with a book with a cumulative sequence e.g. The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Eric Carle)
* On a playmat, use the cars/animals etc that the child has chosen and give a 1 step instruction ‘make the car stop at the garage’ You can do the same with coloured and shaped beads, stacking containers etc.
* Give the child a verbal message to take to another adult ‘Please tell Emily that it’s snack time’
* Use the outside space to create a short ‘treasure hunt’. Give 2 step instructions e.g. ‘go to the sand pit and find a tractor’. Collect all the items and talk about where they had been found.
* Play musical statues.