

# Attention and Listening Activity Ideas



- **Musical chairs / statues / bumps**
- **Simon says**
- **Sound bingo** – listen to sounds on CD / computer and cover the correct picture.
- **Sound walk** – listen for different sounds they hear on a walk outside or around school, then use these to paint a picture or compose a group display.
- **Share reading** – using big books to help focus attention on the visual cues.
- **Circle-time activities** – when one child is speaking they could hold a listening shell, which means that everyone else (including the adults) must listen to what they say.
- **Chinese whispers** – pass an action message round the circle. E.g jump up and down. The last pupil to receive the message has to perform the action.
- **Listen and colour/draw** – draw or colour a picture by listening to the instructions.
- **Read a paragraph or tell a story** and ask the children to put their hand up / stand up when they hear a particular word or their name
- **Use musical instruments** and other sounds to talk about long, short, quiet, loud sounds.
- **Tap a rhythm pattern** and ask the child to repeat.
- **State a topic and then read words or sentences.** The child is to accept or reject if it is relevant to that topic. For example, say that you are talking about animals, name some animals and then name a different object.
- **What's in the box** - Adult describes an object in a box that only they can see. The child has to listen and guess what it is.
- **Fruit salad** - Give each child a label e.g. fruit, animal, colour. When the adult calls out the label children with that label must stand up / do an action / swap places etc.

Find more information and advice on the NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service in Bedfordshire and Luton on the website or Facebook page: [www.childspeechbedfordshire.co.uk](http://www.childspeechbedfordshire.co.uk)



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- **Thumbs up / thumbs down** – Say some true and false statements and the children have to put their thumbs up or down depending on if it's true or not. These could be incorporated into curriculum topics.
- **Hurrah / boo** - Say some statements and the children have to respond 'hurrah' or 'boo' depending on if it's good or bad news, e.g. "Christmas has been cancelled!" "We're going to do maths all afternoon!" etc.
- **What / who is missing** – in a group ask the children to close their eyes then remove either an object out of many you had shown them prior to close their eyes, or tap one of the children asking them to leave the room.
- **Continue the story** – place well-known story / nursery rhyme titles in a story, e.g. Cinderella, the Gruffalo etc. Begin telling the story then ask one child to continue it, then another etc.
- **Oranges and lemons** – divide the children so some are oranges and some are lemons. Give instructions depending on which group they are in, e.g. 'oranges draw a house, lemons draw a dog'.

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