

Let's Get Talking

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Welcome to the 'Communication Newsletter' for Whitgreave Primary.
Your one-stop place for advice on how to support your child(ren) in developing their core communication skills.

Listening is Important

Children gradually learn how to listen. A child who finds it difficult to listen, may find it difficult to:

- Pay attention when you talk
- Remember what you have said
- Listen to you explaining something or to a story
 - Follow instructions
- Wait for a turn in a conversation or a game.

Listening involves paying attention to sounds. However, it is not just one skill and involves:

- Looking at who is talking
- Being still and staying quiet without fidgeting
- Listening to all the words

Good listening is part of what is needed to understand what someone is saying and helps a child to join in conversations and become a good learner.

Listening Tasks!

Sing a familiar song or a funny rhyme together. Children love the repetition of a familiar rhyme or song. Leave out a key word or line in the song and see if your child can fill in the blanks!

Play a taking turns game. For example, Pop up Pirate, skittles, Jenga, throwing and catching a beanbag/ball. Tip: Gradually increase the time that you spend playing by a minute or two – a kitchen timer can be helpful with this.

Play describing words charades. Your child thinks of an action, for example swimming, adds a describing word, for example slowly and acts it out for you to guess.

Ten Top Listening Tips

1. Make listening easier by turning off background noise. For example, turn off the TV or radio.
2. Try to model good listening! Turn to them and look at them. Show your child that they have your full attention.
3. When you talk, help your child to focus by using their name and encourage them to look at you and keep still before you speak. "Jack...look at me...where are your shoes?" "It's story time - keep still so you can do good listening".
4. Use simple words and shorter sentences that your child can understand and remember.
5. Slow your own speech slightly.
6. Reduce the number of questions that you ask. This helps you to share the talking.
7. Pause to allow plenty of time for your child to take in and think about what you have said.
8. It may be helpful to repeat what you say to give your child another chance to take in your words.
9. Check your child has understood by observing what they do, sometimes children may listen carefully but still find it hard to understand the message.
10. Praise good listening even if this was for a short time. "Well done you kept really quiet and that helped you to do good listening".

