
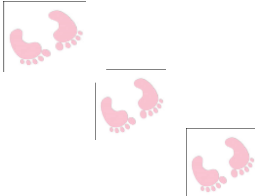

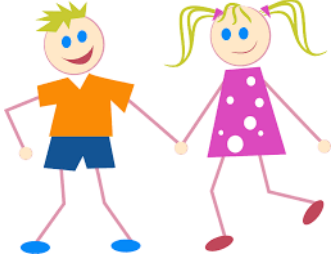
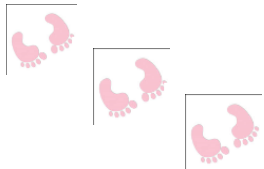



Attention and Listening Developmental Milestones

Age	Attention level	Effect on language	Strategies to develop and support attention and listening
Up to 1 year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very distractible. • Attention is fleeting and given to the most exciting stimulus in the room. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can find it difficult to attend to what you are saying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out what motivates your child and incorporate these into activities.
Between 1-2 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can attend to an activity of their own choosing for a longer period of time but need to block out all other distractions. • Attention is described as rigid and inflexible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child may block out what you are saying in order to concentrate on what they are doing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow them to finish what they are doing before gaining their attention. • Gain your child's attention first by using their name and/or touching them. • Sing songs with your child and leave out words for them to fill in.
Between 2-3 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention is still single channelled but beginning to be able to attend to adults. • Beginning to switch attention between adults and task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to listen to adult instructions if the child stops what they are doing. • Adults need to ensure they have the child's attention before giving any instructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure child is looking towards you when you are speaking to them. • Be specific; using the child's name to help focus their attention. • Play games so your child develops their ability to listen to and follow simple instructions, e.g. 'Simon Says', musical statues, ready, steady, go...



<p>Between 3-4 years</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention remains single channelled but child is more able to control their attention. • Child is able to switch between task and adult spontaneously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will look at an adult when they speak. • Able to shift their attention from the task to the adult giving instructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your child when it's time to listen. • Teach listening rules in nursery/school; sit still, look at the person speaking, think about the words and wait for your turn to speak. • Use gestures, pictures and objects to hold the child's attention. These also help them understand spoken information. • Break down long or complex instructions into shorter 'chunks' of information and repeat if necessary. Give the child time to process the instruction. • Gradually increase the amount of time children are expected to listen for.
<p>Between 4-5 years</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to integrate attention to multiple channels for short periods of time. • Can attend to verbal instructions without needing to look at the adult giving the instruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can listen whilst also completing another activity such as playing or working. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise good listening skills. • Teach listening rules in nursery/school; sit still, look at the person speaking, think about the words and wait for your turn to speak. • Use visuals to reinforce listening rules; posters in classrooms, symbols that can be given to children to remind them of rules.
<p>5 years +</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained and integrated attention is well established and under the child's control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to listen and attend well in class. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow processing time. • Simplify instructions into logical sequences and repeat keywords if necessary. • Encourage child to say if that haven't understood and ask for clarification or repetition.

Attention and listening skills not present in 2 age categories below their actual age e.g. attention is rigid and inflexible at 3-4 years
 Attention and listening skills not present in 1 age category below their actual age e.g. beginning to switch between adult and task at 3-4 year
 Attention and listening skills are age appropriate

