

# Strategies to Support Attention and Listening Skills

1. Remove/minimize distractions - turn off the TV/radio and find somewhere quiet for work or play.
2. Use the child's name at the beginning of the verbal instruction. This can help "tune in" the child to listening.
3. Be on the same level as the student. For example, with small children playing on the floor, be on the floor with them.
4. Gain eye contact with the child before giving any instructions.
5. Slow down your rate of speech. Allow time for the students to process the instructions before expecting a response.
6. Use gestures/objects/signs/symbols to support verbal information. This can help with understanding the verbal information.
7. Use simple sentences. Break up longer instructions.
8. Use rules such as "good looking," "good listening," "good sitting", "good waiting" and so on. These can be used as reminders.
9. Use specific praise to reinforce good looking and good listening skills. For example, "You're listening really well."

Please be aware: every child is different. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research and are intended for guidance purposes only. The advice and/or information here may not apply specifically to your classroom.