

You can help your child to listen! Here's how



ALL children are more affected by background noise than adults. We screen it out. They don't. Turn off or turn down when you talk and play together.

Small children usually have single channelled attention. This means that if they aren't looking at you they probably aren't listening to you! Call their name and encourage them to look in your direction before you speak to them.

The less you talk the more likely they are to listen! Use short and simple sentences; say them slowly; use pauses and they are more likely to stay with you.

Watch them to see what they are looking at and talk about that. If you talk about what they are focusing on then they are much more likely to listen!

Model the behaviour that you want to see. Look at THEM when they are talking to you and wait for THEM to finish talking before you speak.

Being able to wait is a skill that will be really helpful when they go to school. Even very small children can practise it! Try "Ready Steady..... Go!" before activities and gradually make the pauses longer.

No-one can talk and listen at the same time so model really good turn taking with them. Wait for them to finish before you start talking and encourage them to do the same for you!

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