

# Learning to Listen

*'A child who is listened to, learns to listen'*

Children with delays in their language development often have difficulty listening to what is going on in the world around them. They may find it hard to 'block out' background noise in order to listen to speech or they may lack the concentration to pay attention to what is happening.

## Ideas for home

### *Sounds*

- ◆ Make a noisy box and place items inside. Shake the box and take turns guessing what is hiding inside.
- ◆ Stop for a moment and listen to the sounds around you. Try it in the park... when lying down for a nap... in the backyard... at the shops. Talk about all the noises you can hear.
- ◆ Listen to the sounds that you make when you; walk on different surfaces, tap or shake an object, play with toys in the bath.
- ◆ Make up a story about animals, substituting the name of the animal with the sound it makes (e.g. There once was a *roar* and a *squeak*...)

### *Speech*

- ◆ Make up silly rhymes using your child's name (e.g. Fred, Fred eats all the bread).
- ◆ Introduce words that rhyme in simple guessing games. (e.g. 'I'm thinking of something that sounds like tree. It's round and green. It's a pea!')



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