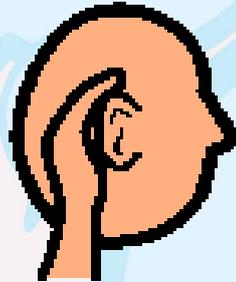


FUN ACTIVITIES TO PLAY WITH YOUR CHILDREN



Produced by ComIT
Tel: 01633 624285

ATTENTION & LISTENING GAMES



- **Attention and listening skills are very important for communication.**
- **Many young children have a short span of attention.**
- **Attention and listening skills are needed for children to begin to understand language.**
- **Try to extend the time your child concentrates and listens on one activity.**
- **Use everyday toys and objects.**



Feely Bags



Place a selection of everyday objects in a bag. Shake the bag and tell your child that this is a surprise bag. Take it in turns to put your hand in the bag and pull something out. Wait for your child to say what they've found. If they don't know, label the object for them.

Suggestions:

- Small toys
- Small world people and animals
- Food
- Hairbrush, sunglasses, toothbrush, mirror etc
- Plastic tea set items
- Spoons and cutlery
- Things from the garden or park such as pinecones & leaves



Noisemakers



Make a shaker out of an old plastic bottle. Give it to your child. Say to your child that he needs to wait until he hears you say go! before he can shake his shaker. Say to him that when he hears stop! he must stop. Pause. Then say Ready, Steady Go! Let him shake the shaker. Then say 'Stop'. If your child stops, praise him for good listening. You could finish the game by giving him a sticker for good listening.



Skittles



Make skittles out of old bottles and fill them up with sand. Tell your child that they can roll the ball when you say 'go!' Pause. Say 'Ready, Steady, Go!' Child rolls the ball. Take it in turns to knock skittles over.



Ready, Steady, Go!



Make a ramp out of cardboard. Take it in turns to hold a toy car or ball at the top. Say to your child that he should not let go until you say go! Say 'Ready, Steady, Go!' or '1, 2, 3, Go!' Child lets go of toy or ball. You could join in and see whose ball or car gets to the bottom first!



Play Dough



Roll out play dough together. Cut it out with pastry cutters. Make balls, snakes, cakes.



Songs & Rhymes



Ring A Ring A Roses, Hokey Cokey, The Wheels On The Bus, This Is The Way We....I'm A Little Teapot, Five Little Speckled Frogs.



What's Missing?



Place 3 or 4 every day objects or toys on a tray. Ask your child to close their eyes. When your child closes their eyes, remove one item. Ask your child to open their eyes and encourage them to tell you what's missing. Take it in turns to play this game. Add more objects if your child finds it easy. Take some away if your child finds it difficult.



Simon Says Games



Play Simon says type games. For example:

Simon says, 'Clap your hands'

Simon says, 'Jump up and down'

Simon says, 'Shake your head'

Do actions as you say them so that your child can copy you.

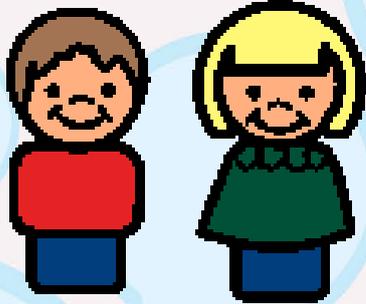


Puzzles



Take all the pieces out of the puzzle and slowly begin to put them back in. As you are doing this talk about each piece so that your child hears the correct words for objects. Hide a piece in one hand and let your child guess which hand it is in. Put pieces in empty pots and shake them. Draw around them.

COPYING GAMES



- Copying is very important for communication.
- Copying involves working together and communicating with another person.
- Some children find it hard to copy so will need lots of help.
- Copying is important for the learning of speech and signs.



Early Copying Games

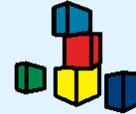


You will need:
Two shakers
Two plastic cups
Two pairs of sunglasses

Place them in front of your child and wait for them to pick something up. Then copy them. Later, see if your child will copy you.



Toy Bricks



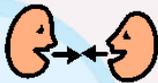
Start by copying what your child does.
If he bangs two bricks together, do the same.
Then see if your child copies you. Lift the bricks into the air and bang them.



Copying Faces



Make funny faces at your child or look into a mirror together and make funny faces.
Try to encourage your child to copy you.



Copying Sounds



Make funny sounds at your child such as ba ba ba or ma ma ma. Respond to any sound your child makes. Try to encourage your child to copy you.



Simon Says Games



Play Simon says type games. For example:
Simon says, 'Clap your hands'
Simon says, 'Jump up and down'
Simon says, 'Shake your head'
Do actions as you say them so that your child can copy you.



Songs & Rhymes



Here we go round the mulberry bush, Ring a ring a roses, the wheels on the bus.

TURN TAKING

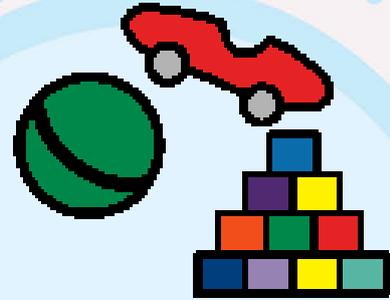
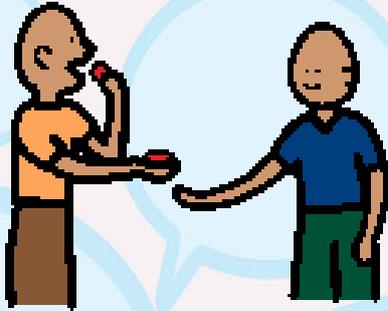


- **Lots of children find it difficult to learn to wait, share and take turns.**
- **Children with communication difficulties sometimes find it very difficult to accept the rules of turn taking and sharing.**
- **Turn taking is important for learning the rules of conversation.**

RULES OF TURN TAKING

- **Work on turn-taking when you are alone with your child. It is much harder to learn to share with two or three brothers and sisters around.**
- **To make sure your child does take turns, be in control of the situation by keeping hold of the toy you are playing with.**
- **Show your child what he has to do first.**
- **Say things like: 'my turn', 'your turn' over and over so your child starts to understand what you are doing.**
- **If your child finds it hard to turn take, let him have 2 turns for every 1 turn you have.**
- **If your child still finds it hard to take turns, take the toy away and try again later.**

TURN TAKING EVERY DAY ACTIVITIES



Turn taking is an important social skill to learn.

You can encourage turn taking in everyday routines.

For example:

- **Take turns to stir a cake mixture**
- **Take turns on a swing**
- **Take turns sharing toys**
- **Take turns to water the garden**
- **Take turns to brush your hair**
- **Take turns to clap your hands.**

TURN TAKING GAMES



Bean Bags & Balls



Sit opposite your child and throw balls or beanbags to each other.



Cars



Take turns rolling cars to one another.



Skittles



Make skittles out of old bottles and fill them up with sand. Take turns to roll the ball and knock down the skittles.



Toy Bricks



Take it in turns to build up bricks until you have made a tower.

NOTES



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