



Help Your Child Learn to Listen!

Your child was born to learn! From birth, your child is learning important listening skills. He needs these skills to become a good reader and writer. You are your child's first and best teacher. With your help, she will do better in school. Try these easy and fun activities with your child:

YOUR INFANT:

- ◆ Sing songs during the day and at bedtime. Your baby will love your voice! You can even make up your own words and your own songs!
- ◆ Talk to your baby all day. Talk about what you are doing during dressing, bath, and other times. Use short, simple sentences: "This is water. Water is wet!"
- ◆ Listen to your child's coos and babbles. Repeat his sounds. Let her "hear back" the cooing and babbling she "says" to you.
- ◆ Play tapes or CDs with songs and sounds on them. Some are made just for infants. They can be found at your local library.
- ◆ Play the "Show Me" game. Say: "Show me your eyes." Help your child point her eyes. Say, "Yes! Those are your eyes." Ask your child to "show you" other body parts, clothing, or favorite toys.
- ◆ Hold your baby in your lap and read to her every day. Choose books with pictures and simple words in them. Let your baby hold books, look at them, touch the pictures, and turn the pages.

YOUR TODDLER:

- ◆ Give your child simple directions with one step: "Go get the ball." Help him if he needs it. Clap and smile when he can follow your directions.
- ◆ Play listening games such as "Simon Says." Keep it simple, such as, "Simon Says, touch your toes."
- ◆ Read to your child every day. Make up voices for the characters. Repeat some of the words and sentences. Sing parts of the book. Ask questions about the story. Have fun with your child.
- ◆ Ask relatives and friends to read to your child.
- ◆ Take your child to new and favorite places: the grocery store, the library, the park, for a walk, etc. Talk about interesting sounds and ask questions about them: "What do you hear? Is that a bird? What kind of sound does it make?" Wait for your child to answer. Help your child if needed.

YOUR PRESCHOOLER:

- ◆ Give your child directions with two or more steps such as "Take off your shoes and come to the table."
- ◆ Answer the many questions your preschooler asks. Be sure he understands you.
- ◆ Read to your child every day. Let your child choose his own stories. Help him to choose stories that are a little longer than before. Your preschooler can now learn pay attention to these stories.
- ◆ Play "I Spy." Describe something you see and have your child guess what it is. "I see something red that has four wheels. What is it?" Give many clues and help her to guess "A Car" if she needs help.
- ◆ Let your child listen to books on tape at the library, at home, on the bus, or in the car.