

# Top Tips for Listening

## Community & Therapy Services Speech and Language Therapy Department

**This leaflet has been designed to give you important information about your condition / procedure, and to answer some common queries you may have.**

# Information for parents and carers

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## Top Tips for Listening

### Do you recognise this child?

- He never seems to listen
- She fidgets all the time
- He's always talking when he should be listening
- She's always getting into trouble
- He can't tell you what you have said to him
- He doesn't seem to know what to do.

Children with Speech and Language difficulties often have problems **listening**.

### Why do children have listening problems?

- Adult's language is too complex or long
- They are generally immature
- Hearing problems
- They feel tired
- The adult speaks too quickly
- The activity is too hard
- They feel uncomfortable
- It's too noisy or there are distractions

### What can I do?

- Play face to face with your child

You may need to get down on the floor with your child and play at their level

Call their name before telling them what to do. Wait until they look at you before talking.

You may need to:

- Call their name more than once
- Wait until they finish what they are doing

**Remember! Children find it hard to do 2 things at once.**



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Reduce distractions...

This may mean:

- Turn off the TV
- Shut the door on the washing machine
- Don't put too many toys out at once, pack some away
- Keep what you say short and simple

You may need to:

- Talk more slowly
- Ask fewer questions
- Use less complicated words
- Take time to listen to your child

We like to be listened to, so do our children. You can show you are listening by:

- Smiling
- Looking at them
- Nodding
- Sitting at their level

## Games for Younger Children

- Ready, steady, go games. Roll a ball to each other. Wait until 'go' before blowing bubbles
- Musical bumps – wait for the music to stop. Try this with a teddy, when the music stops teddy falls down
- Anticipation games like 'round and round the garden ...'
- Hide and seek – hide a toy that makes a noise
- Books – match sounds to pictures in noisy books
- Lotto, snap etc
- Towers – wait for 'go!' before knocking it down

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## Games for Older Children

- Board games
- I went to the shops and bought ...
- Kim's game – place items under a tea cloth. Remove 1 item and let your child guess what is missing
- I-spy
- Pass the blink – in a circle one person winks and this is passed around to the next one. Your child needs to look so they are not missed
- Chinese whispers – pass a whispered word around the circle
- Listening to stories – your child listens for a key word or character. When they hear this word they stand up
- Build a story – each person adds a new sentence

## References

Clinical Guidelines (2007) Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

Communicating Quality 3 (2006) Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

## Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service offers confidential advice, support and information on any health related matters.

If you have a comment, concern, complaint or compliment about the care or service you have received from the Trust you can contact the PALS team as follows:

Telephone: 03033 306518

Email: [nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net)

There are also offices at both the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital (near the main entrance) and Scunthorpe General Hospital (on the C Floor, near the outpatient department), should you wish to visit.

**Please note: PALS should not be contacted for clinical advice relating to the content of this leaflet. The service should be contacted directly in the first instance.**



# Information for parents and carers

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## **Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust**

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