

At this age children build the early building blocks of communication including looking, listening, joint attention, and taking turns. Below are some top tips and activities to encourage these early attention, listening and communication skills.



Top Tips

- Minimise background noise wherever possible including turning off screens and music to allow children to pay attention to people talking.
- Be face to face when interacting and Observe Wait Listen to see what child's interests are and what they are trying to communicate.
- Join in with children's play and interests – follow their lead
- Use visual information – show objects as you talk, Makaton signs, gestures

People Play

- Peekaboo
- Tickles
- Movement rhymes:
 - round the garden
 - Row row your boat
 - Ring a roses
 - Chasing etc

People Toys

- Bubbles
- Puppets
- Balloons
- Wind-up toys



Pause to give child opportunities to show you enjoyment, they want more or want help.

What's in the bag

put different everyday, child safe objects in a bag and take turns to take out and explore each one. As child explores each object, name it & chat together



Turn taking games / 'Ready Steady Go' routines:

- Rolling a Ball or Car to each other
- Building a tower
- Ball Run
- Slide

Use fun words like go wee, uh oh, crash!

Shake and Shake and Shake and Stop!

with musical instruments or the sparkly lycra.



Interactive Books

Like touch & feel, lift the flap, books with buttons

Explore sounds

- Treasure baskets with noise making objects to explore
- Animal noises
- Vehicle noises
- Listen to and copy environmental sounds

At this age children are continuing to build the early building blocks of communication including joint attention, taking turns, listening to instructions and using language. Below are some top tips to encourage these essential attention and listening skills.



★ Top Tips

- Minimise background noise wherever possible including turning off screens and music to allow children to pay attention to people talking.
- Be face to face when interacting and Observe Wait Listen to see what child's interests are and what they are trying to communicate.
- Join in with children's play and interests – follow their lead
- Use visual information – show objects as you talk, Makaton signs, gestures

Songs & Rhymes

with movement and repetition

- Wheels on the bus
- Wind your bobbin
- Head Shoulders
- Row row your boat
- Ring a roses
- Sleeping bunnies



People Toys

- Bubbles
- Puppets
- Balloons
- Wind-up toys



Pause to give child opportunities to join in and take turns. Praise good listening.

What's in the bag

put different everyday, child safe objects in a bag and take turns to take out and chat together - what does it do, describe it



Listening Activities

- Hide a noisy toy for children to find
- Listen to a repetitive story e.g. 'that's not my car, puppy etc and make the Makaton sign or a noise when you hear the target word.
- Go a listening walk



Turn taking games

- Rolling a Ball or Car to each other
- - Building a tower together
- - Ball Run
- - Slide
- Emphasise whose turn, praise good waiting and sharing



Shake and Shake and Shake and Stop!

with musical instruments or the sparkly lycra.



Copy the beat

use instruments to make a beat for children to copy

