

Listening Activities to Do at Home with Your Child

Help your child be aware of sounds that are around him/her. Try these activities with and without amplification. A great way to show your child the benefit of their amplification devices. These activities should always be fun for you and your child!

Make noises around your house such as slamming the door, dropping a book, tapping a pencil. Have your child close their eyes to listen while you make the sound. They can then tell you what made the sound or go and show you what made the sound. It would be fun and different to record the sound and let the child identify the sound from the recording.

In one room of the house open all the windows. Listen with your child to the noises that come in from outside. If you wish you can discuss the sounds you heard. If your child is able, have him/her draw a picture of something he/she heard.

Take a listening walk. This can be done inside or outside. As you walk you could discuss the things both of you hear. If possible, take pictures of what you heard and saw. At home chart or make a book, so the child can remember and revisit his/her walk and the noises.

Have your child close his eyes and tell you what you are doing. Make sounds like coughing, clapping, brushing your teeth, yawning, sweeping, sneezing, laughing, vacuuming, etc. If he is unable to do this, you can tell him what it is you did; so he will become aware of the noises and the vocabulary that names the action.

Modify the above and use a very soft voice sometimes. This is a great attention getter, since the children have to listen to catch what you say. Also, try having them listen at different distances; 1 ft., 3 ft., and 6ft.

At the dinner table, or when everyone is together, have your child close their eyes and see if they can tell the difference in the family member's voices. Have them guess who said something, either by pointing to that person or by saying their name. A variation would be to record voices, including the child's voice, and have them tell whose voice it is.

Help your child to learn the sounds that various animals make. It helps to have pictures of the animals to accompany the activity. You make the noise of the animal and have the child find the picture of the animal. Later, hold up a picture of the animal and have the child make the sound of the animal. You can also use animal puppets, toys or stuffed animals for variation.