Attention & Listening - 2

Listening and attention games for young children

• Finding a sound – hide a noisy toy or musical toy in the room and ask the child to find it
• Play simple ‘peek a boo’ games
• Have pictures of animals, make the sound of one and ask your child to point to the picture
• Hold a car and say ‘Ready….steady….go’. Encourage your child to look and then roll the car to them on ‘go’
• Build a tower of bricks together and then say ‘Ready...steady....go’ before you knock the tower down. Gradually make your child wait for longer before you say ‘Go’
• There are lots of other different ways to play ‘Ready, steady, go’ games, e.g. ‘ready, steady….. jump’ or ‘ready, steady…… boo!’
• Collect lots of different noisy toys or objects e.g. bells, squeakers, bunch of keys, rattles and encourage your child to play with them and listen to the different sounds
• Hide the noisy toys in a box and make a sound with one of them – ask the child to guess which toy made the sound
• Musical statues – dance to some music with your child. Listen for when the music stops and then stand still or sit down
• Sing songs e.g. ‘ring a ring a roses’ or Humpty Dumpty’ where the child has to listen for the word ‘down’ before they fall to the floor, or leave out the last word for your child to fill in or use the wrong word and wait for your child to notice e.g. ‘Humpty Dumpty sat on a ……donkey’
• Make musical ‘instruments’ and listen to their different sounds e.g. a metal spoon on a pan, a wooden spoon on a plastic cup
• Ask your child to copy a simple rhythm on the instruments, e.g. two quick beats, a pause, one quick beat
• Practice clapping or marching to the beat of music at different speeds
• Go on a ‘listening walk’, stopping to listen and talk about all the sounds you can hear

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