

Attention & Listening

What skills are involved in Attention & Listening?

- Attention and listening are important for:
 - ⇒ **focusing** on a **specific item** at the **right time**
 - ⇒ **filtering** out irrelevant information in the environment (sounds, sights etc)
 - ⇒ **switching attention** from one thing to another
 - ⇒ **focusing on two things at the same time**
 - ⇒ **maintaining concentration** for a sufficient length of time.

Stages of attention and listening development:

- **Early:**
 - ⇒ Child is **very distractible** and cannot focus on what you see
 - ⇒ Child **can attend to own choice of activity** for a longer period of time but cannot focus on anything other than self-chosen activity
- **Intermediate:**
 - ⇒ Child **can listen if they stop** what they're doing at look at the adult but still requires **lots of adult help** to do this
 - ⇒ Can still only focus **on one thing at a time** but beginning to look at the other person automatically when they speak
- **Advanced:**
 - ⇒ Child can do a task and listen to adult talking at the same time
 - ⇒ Child no longer needs to look at the adult when they speak.

When to provide support in this area:

- Child is **easily distracted** within the classroom setting
- Child **flits** between activities
- Child is **unable to sustain attention** independently on a single activity
- Child **struggles to shift their attention** between you and an activity
- Has **difficulty following or remembering spoken instructions**
- Struggles to follow classroom routines and rules
- Struggles to access learning opportunities due to **distractibility**.

