

Developing Attention and Listening Skills.

The development of listening and attention skills is essential to promote a child's understanding and use of language. You can help by:

- **Always addressing the child by name before you speak.**
- **Approaching the child before you speak.**
- **Getting down to the child's level whenever possible.**
- **Encouraging (but not trying to force) eye contact.**

Hold objects/pictures up to the side of your face to encourage gaze in the right direction.

- **Using visual prompts, natural gesture and a range of facial expression and tones of voice to engage the child's interest.**
- **Trying to avoid the child being seated near possible distractions e.g. book racks, toys and equipment drawers.**
- **In whole class activities, sitting the child near the teacher so that attention can be refocused when needed.**
- **Standing near to and facing the child when giving instructions in group situations e.g. lining up, P.E., to reduce distractions.**
- **Keeping activities short, using a kitchen timer to encourage the child to stay focused for a set time. Stop the activity when the timer rings, even if the task is going well.**