

Listening Games

Listening activities for kids promotes cooperation.

There are thousands—yes thousands—of ways to [teach kids to listen](#), but one important way is to use listening activities for kids. Some activities help build listening skills directly, while others are used to make things fun (like going to the bathroom) so you can get better cooperation without the frustration of a [power struggle](#) or [temper tantrum](#).

Activity Ideas!

Be the boss.

Allow your child to be the boss while you play together for a set amount of time. Your child will tell you what to play and how to play. This is excellent to help you understand how your child views your parenting instruction, and it gives you an opportunity to model listening for your child.

Doll play.

Grab a few dolls and sit down with your child. Have one doll be the mom or teacher and one doll is the child. Take turns playing with each doll and practicing pretend talking and listening. Choose a scenario with the dolls to mirror an area you are struggling with at home. Allow your child to take the lead.

Telephone.

Take turns whispering in each other's ears and repeating back what you say to one another. Instead of making it one work, like the typical telephone game, use 3-4 short sentences for your child to repeat back. Continue practicing and sharing silly or pretend stories.

Sound box game.

When children are shy and struggling with coming forward and speaking up, try [The Sound Game](#) to help kids become more confident. This game will fill your child's creativity tank!

Sound hunt.

Take your kids on an [outdoor sound hunt](#) to help kids listen carefully to the sounds outside, naming all the sounds they hear. It's a creative game inspired by Dr. Seuss!

Mrs. Bear sits in the chair.

Develop your child's listening skills further by practicing [this rhythmic response game](#). This also helps kids learn the names and sounds of instruments.

Listen and find word search.

[This game is perfect for kids](#) who don't want to read aloud. Instead, they can play this game to build their confidence. After their confidence builds they will be much more apt to read aloud.

Do three things.

When kids don't like to clean up toys after they are done playing, play the game [Do Three Things](#). Kids get very excited about this game that they often keep "cleaning" after all the toys are picked up. So creative!

Listening activity with blocks.

This [listening activity with blocks](#) works well with younger and early school-aged kids together. If your kids are learning colors or counting, this game is a perfect fit for that too. All you need is colored wooden blocks or legos are fine too.

Listen and draw.

Drawing is a great calming activity for kids, but you can also use it to build listening skills. Describe a picture to your child. Share as many details as possible while your child listens. Then ask your child to draw the picture as you described it. You can

describe a simple picture for younger kids and a highly detailed picture for older kids.

Circle time.

This works well with a group of younger kids together. Sing “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” or “Ring Around the Rosey” to help kids listen to the song and follow the directions.

1-2-3 step directions.

If your kids have a difficult time remembering a set of instructions, play this awesome [Fill the Backpack Game](#). All you need is a backpack, a piece of paper, and some items from around the house.

Lego listening game.

This [homemade Lego listening game](#) is easy to organize and use in a variety of situations. You can also adjust the level difficulty to suit the abilities of your child. This game develops both spoken language, vocabulary and listening skills.

