

# HELPING CHILDREN LEARN TO LISTEN

## Action Guide

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## Helping Children Learn To Listen

A Kids Talk Webinar  
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**In this session we'll look at three techniques that establish a foundation for listening in young children:**

1. An adult relationship skill that will help your child become a better listener.
2. Games or activities to develop listening skills.
3. How to identify obstacles to listening in both home and school environments.

As a thank you, you'll receive the guide, *Listening Activities For Children*.

You'll also receive a special offer.

**Have a question?** Please use the q and a box below the video screen and I will personally email you a response.

**1. What adult relationships skill can help your child become a better listener?**

\_\_\_\_\_ less. \_\_\_\_\_ more.

It's easy to fall into the trap of \_\_\_\_\_.

The skill to develop?

Our words should be few and our words should be followed by action.

We should be prepared to take our child by the \_\_\_\_\_,  
without a \_\_\_\_\_.

We teach that action follows words.

### **For easy transitions:**

Give a \_\_\_\_\_ alert.

Give directions ONCE.

Be sure to look your child in the \_\_\_\_\_.

Eye contact makes sure your message is received.

### **What if I meet resistance?**

Listen more!

First, \_\_\_\_\_ what you \_\_\_\_\_.

Second, ask for \_\_\_\_\_.

Third, state what you \_\_\_\_\_.

Whenever we can offer our children a \_\_\_\_\_ we are more  
likely to gain \_\_\_\_\_.

How to offer a choice:

Offer \_\_\_\_\_ choices.

Ask for \_\_\_\_\_.

Restate the choices.

The gotcha in this plan?

\_\_\_\_\_ follow \_\_\_\_\_.

**Be sure to think through your choices before offering them, so that action can follow words.**

We offer choices in terms of safety and common sense.

**The BIG IDEA:**

To get children to listen to us, \_\_\_\_\_ we need to \_\_\_\_\_ to children.

## **2. Games or activities to develop listening skills**

Note: these are described in your guide, *Listening Activities For Children*.

### **What's That Sound?**

- Ask the children to face away from you and cover their eyes.
- Make various sounds.
- After each action ask, "What's that sound?"

### **Reading Out Loud**

Keep adding a minute a day until you are reading for \_\_\_\_\_ minutes a day. (This can be done in two or three daily sessions.)

### **The Listening Game**

Count to \_\_\_\_\_ silently using your hands.

At the end of the quiet period, ask, "What did you hear?" and "How did it feel to be quiet?"

Remember that \_\_\_\_\_ follows \_\_\_\_\_.

### Clap Clap Clap Your Hands

Add as many actions as you can \_\_\_\_\_.

If you feel that life is getting too serious and stressful, \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. Identify obstacles to listening at home and school.

We've already addressed perhaps the biggest obstacle:

When our \_\_\_\_\_ lack \_\_\_\_\_.

When we do that, we teach that our words are \_\_\_\_\_.

Our homes can be \_\_\_\_\_ places.

Children can be confused about \_\_\_\_\_ to listen to. \_\_\_\_\_ or video game?

\_\_\_\_\_ of a child's adult vocabulary is in place by age six.

At home, make sure WHAT your child hears \_\_\_\_\_ focus and attention on language.

Young children haven't learned to \_\_\_\_\_ these sounds and these unfiltered sounds can be a distraction.

After the age of \_\_\_\_\_ it is more difficult to learn to \_\_\_\_\_ out these sounds.

Playing \_\_\_\_\_ is a quick way to survey your home or classroom to find the auditory distractions.

**Be clear about *WHEN* it is time to listen.**

- Say child's name.
- Wait for the child to make eye contact.
- Say: Listen.
- Give instruction.
- Follow with: Can you tell me what to do now?

Another obstacle: \_\_\_\_\_ into action.

Instead: Don't just \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ there.

When we \_\_\_\_\_ in to stop behavior we prevent children the chance to \_\_\_\_\_, which is in essence, learning to listen to themselves.

## Have A Question?

Please use the box on the screen to send your questions during this session. I will email you personally.

Be sure to look for your guide, *Listening Activities For Children*, via email.



To learn more about helping children learn to listen, please email me at [Maren@MarenSchmidt.com](mailto:Maren@MarenSchmidt.com) or visit [MarenSchmidt.com](http://MarenSchmidt.com).