

Ideas for developing auditory memory skills

Auditory memory is being able to hold the things you hear in your memory, in the right order, for long enough to be able to process the information. Children who find it difficult to learn new concepts, follow instructions and remember information sometimes have auditory memory difficulties.

Some ideas for helping children to develop auditory memory skills:

- Give only one instruction at a time and break longer instructions into smaller steps, usual visual prompts – pictures or objects.
- Play word games like 'I went to the shop and I bought...' where each player repeats the item from the previous player and adds a new one. This works well in a small group.
- Part fill two (to start with) empty plastic bottles to make sound shakers. Use things that make distinctly different sounds - pasta, sand, marbles. Take it in turns to close your eyes and listen as they are shaken, then identify the right one.
- Share a book with a repetitive phrase, eg Brown bear, brown bear (Bill Martin) leaving time for the child to join in, and share a book with a repeated cumulative sequence, eg The Very Hungry Caterpillar (Eric Carle)
- On a playmat use the animals/cars etc that the child has chosen give one step instructions for the child to follow, eg 'make the car stop by the garage'. You can do the same with coloured and shaped beads, stacking containers, a box of treasures....
- Give the child a message to take to another adult – 'Please tell Rose it is snack time'
- Use outside space to create a short 'treasure hunt'. Give two step instructions – 'go to the sandpit and find a ball'. Collect the 'found' items and at the end talk about where they had been found.
- Play musical statues – dance to music, stand still when it stops.