



## 2: Learning to Listen

Hearing and Listening are two very different things. Many children need to be explicitly taught how to listen.

Teach children how to listen by firstly explaining and demonstrating the 3 vital steps to good listening:

1. *Still bodies*
2. *Eyes looking*
3. *Head thinking*

Talk about one step to good listening each day. Demonstrate this behaviour to the children and offer specific praise when you notice children using this behaviour throughout the day.

“Lovely still hands and feet Josie. You were sitting so still on the mat whilst I read our story today. You are a lovely listener”

“Lovely looking Ben. You used your eyes to look at me when I was talking to you.”

“Great thinking Riley. You listened to my story and answered a question.”

Use of star charts may provide older children with visual reinforcement for the 3 steps to good listening. A poster demonstrating the 3 steps to listening with pictures will help remind all children of the good listening behaviours to use.

Games that practice good listening behaviours include:

**Drum beats** – The Educator taps a beat on the drum for children to copy on their own drum or by clapping

**Musical Instruments** – Children sit in a circle on the mat with musical instruments in the centre. Children close their eyes as the Educator plays an instrument. The children must then work out which musical instrument was used.

**Noisy Stories** – The children are instructed to make a certain sound each time a particular character in a familiar story is mentioned e.g. Goldilocks. This will encourage all children to listen very carefully to each word the Educator says.

