



# Teaching children to listen

1. If it's an instruction then **TELL** don't **ASK**. Implying there is a choice when there isn't one confuses children.

2. Don't compete. Talking at the same time as you is **NOT** ok so don't let children think it is. Wait for quiet before you start talking.

3. Avoid using before and after. If you want to confuse children then use 'before' and 'after'. If you want them to understand then use 'first' and 'next'.

4 **Keep it concrete! Avoid non-literal language or give an example at the same time as you use it.**

5. Remember - 'thank you' at the end **NOT** 'please' at the start. It's a quick way avoid asking when you meant to tell.

6 - **The easiest way to get children to listen MORE is for you to talk LESS.**

7. Avoid Trigger Phrases such as 'Line up at the door'. Children don't listen to any other information which is attached to them so only use when there is nothing left to say.

8. Looking helps listening but it is not always obvious to children. Get eye contact first to make sure your words count.

9. **ALL** children are more affected by background noise than adults. We screen it out. They don't. Turn off or turn down.

10. **Voices need to be 15-20 dbls louder than background noise for kids to listen. Cut out any background noise you can and don't shout louder - wait for quiet!**