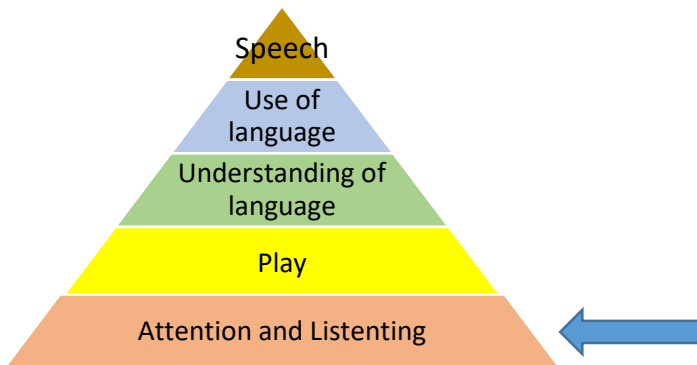




## Attention and Listening



The Communication Pyramid shows the different elements that make up speech, language and communication. Children need to listen, attend and process what they hear around them so they can learn and understand new words

### Time to talk

Turn off electronic devices (e.g. tablets, phones, TV) and reduce other distractions when talking to and playing with your child.

### Use their name

Get your child's attention by getting down to their level, using their name and making sure they are looking at you, before talking to them.

### Remind your child how to be a good listener

Talk to your child about the importance of being a good listener, e.g. "look at me to show you are listening", "wait for your turn to talk" etc.

### Give specific praise

e.g. "You concentrated really well on your homework, that was really impressive", instead of "well done" and "good boy/girl".

### Break long tasks into smaller steps

Allow time in between steps for them to get up, move around and have a stretch. E.g. Maths homework - 5 questions, break, maths homework - last 5 questions.

### Use visual schedules and rewards

To encourage your child to complete required activities e.g. homework. You could follow this with your child's favourite activity to motivate them.

### Take turns

Play turn-taking games (e.g. board games/Lego) with your child to develop their looking, listening and waiting skills. Make it clear whose turn it is