

ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE ATTENTION TO SOUND

When your child is beginning to be aware of sounds, s/he will respond by startling when s/he hears something
e.g. “jumping” when a sound occurs, eyes wide open as s/he startles.

As your child begins to learn about different sounds, s/he will develop different responses
e.g. turning in the direction of the sound, smiling at familiar voices, wanting the sound to be repeated, “dancing” to music, showing anticipation of the sound.

You can monitor your child’s anticipation of sounds through any of the activities used to increase awareness of sound, but observe how s/he reacts to the sounds.

Certain activities will be particularly useful to increase your child’s anticipation of different sounds:

- Songs such as “Round and round the garden” or “This little piggy went to market” or “Row, row, row the boat”, when you can pause before the important phrase when you do the action.
Check to see if your child looks at you when you are about to say the important part of the rhyme. This shows that s/he is expecting the fun part!
- Play “Ready, steady, go” games with balls, cars, tickling, bubbles etc. Make sure you leave a gap before you say “Go!”.
Check to see if your child looks at you when you are about to say “Go!”. This shows that s/he is expecting something to happen!
- Use pop-up toys and say “pop” as they go.
Check to see if your child looks at you when you are about to say “Pop!”. This shows that s/he is expecting something to happen!