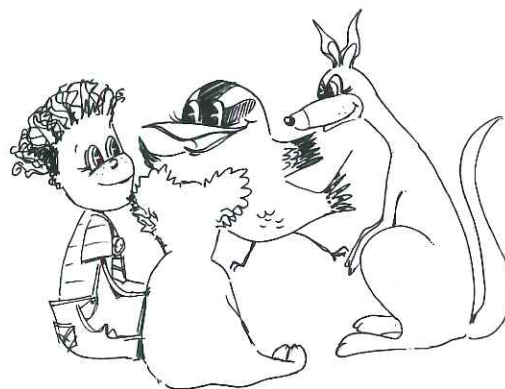


This week's skill:

Taking Turns: Talking and Listening



Listening is an elementary skill that all children must learn. They need to learn to listen in order to understand language, to find out information and to communicate with others. Also, if children do not learn to listen to what other people are saying,

instructions will not be heard and therefore not followed.

Other children and adults are less likely to talk with children who don't take turns to listen in conversations.

What your child learnt this week

This session dealt with children taking turns to talk and to listen when others are talking. Children were encouraged to look at the person who was talking, to be quiet and to listen.



Taking part in real conversations, where everyone gets a chance to talk is the best way for children to learn about the need to take turns talking and listening.

Supporting this skill at home

- When you talk to children and they show that they are listening by being quiet and looking at you (or in your direction), or by doing as you ask, use labelled praise (see the Parent Information for Session 1).
- When you start to talk to your child, prompt him or her to listen by saying something like: 'David, I need you to listen while I am talking. What do you need to do?' (Look at me and be quiet.) 'Sarah, you're looking at me while I'm talking. Well done! I also need you to be quiet. Can you show me how you do that?'
- When you are first helping your child practice listening or if he or she seems to have difficulty learning this skill, you may need to help him or her review the steps introduced in the program (see below).
- It is also important for children that you provide a good example of how to listen. When you are conversing with others, and especially with your child, show that you are listening and interested by looking at them, giving them time to talk (children may need longer than adults) and then replying.
- Some children may need visual cues. If your child is interrupting, gently hold your hand up, for example. Alternatively, you may prefer to use a specially decorated 'talking stick' or 'talking ball'. Only the person holding the stick or ball is allowed to talk and he or she passes it on when finished.

Listening steps

1. Look at the person who is talking (**Look**).
2. Be quiet when someone else is talking (**Shhh**).
3. Listen to what is said (**Listen**).

Your child may know these as 'look, shhh and listen'.



Listening is a skill all children need to learn.