

How to Help Your Child Develop Auditory Skills

1. **Same-Different Game:** Are these words the same or are they different? Begin with beginning sounds, (e.g., bat and fat). Move to ending sounds, (e.g. bat and bag). Finally use middle sounds, (e.g. bit and bet). If your child is not able to identify similarities or differences, tell them the correct answers, (e.g. "Listen, bat and hat are different" Exaggerate the target sound.
2. **Rhyming Game:** Start by giving your child two words (e.g. tap and map) Have your child repeat the two words and tell you if they rhyme.
3. **Put It Together Game:** Break words apart and have your child identify the whole word. Begin with easy words like compound words (e.g. milk-man, butterfly, dog-house, water-fall). Move to multi-syllable words (e.g. bro-ther, mor-ning, car-toon, el-e-phant). After your child is successful move to three letter words making each individual sound (e.g. b-a-t, m-o-m, ch-i-p, n-o-te).
4. **Memory Game:** Provide your child with a sequence of words or numbers and have them repeat. Begin with two items and increase to five or six (e.g. 1, 9, 8, 3 or horse, hand, run).
5. **Starts Like Game:** Have your child name a word that starts like step or boy, etc., or find a word in this line that starts like mom.
6. **Ends Like Game:** Have your child give you a word that ends like man, or find a word on this line that ends like map.
7. **Thinking of Game:** I am thinking of a word that starts with "m" (make the sound). Child guesses. It ends with a "n" (make the sound). Child guesses. It shines at night. Give clues until the correct word is guessed.
8. **Provide the Missing Word Game:** Give the child a sentence and delete the last word, e.g. "I had better open the _____" Have your child guess may word that fits in the sentence. Then give letter clues as in the Thinking Game until the child guesses the word. Go back and say the entire sentence.