



Hello,

We are all hoping the weather improves soon and that the children won't be cooped up indoors for too much longer. In the meantime, here are a couple of simple games you can play to develop listening and attention skills. This is something the school particularly asked us to encourage.

How to play **Simon Says** (Please personalise the game for your family by choosing a different name if you want to! If English is not your home language, you can adapt it to your home language too.) The game can be quiet or lively, depending on the instructions you choose to give. Sometimes it helps to have the first few in mind before you start....

Explain to your child they must only follow the instruction when Simon says. If you don't say Simon says, they should ignore it!

Start the game with one instruction.

'Simon says sit down'.

Once your child has mastered this you can start introducing 2 or 3 instructions at a time.

'Simon says put your hand on your head, turn around and then sit down'.

Don't forget to leave 'Simon says' out to check that your child is listening.

You can also use this game to encourage children to carry out routines and instructions they are usually hesitant to follow.

Simon says walk up stairs, Simon says brush your teeth, Simon says wash your face...

Simon says stop playing, Simon says put your bricks in the box...

*Added tip: You may want to use the game to practise particular vocabulary, such as parts of the body or positional language such as up, down, in, out.*

Another , quieter listening game that can be played anywhere is **I Went to the Shop**.

For this game you can either choose random items, or a particular topic such as animals as in the example. You can adapt it to your child's interests - how many dinosaurs could you name? Or you can use it to develop a particular set of vocabulary - clothes, food etc.

Start off with one item.

"I went to the shop and I bought a dog:"

The next person repeats the sentence and adds one thing to the list:

"I went to the shop and I bought a dog and a cat..."

On the third turn another item is added:

"I went to the shop and bought a dog, a cat and a tortoise..."

And so on, until the chain breaks down. Then you can start again!

We hope you have some rainy day jofun with these! There are lots more topics to come, including getting ready for school lunches, turn taking, friendships and others.

Please let us know how you're getting on and anything you'd like us to cover.

Joanna and Sue