

LISTENING SKILLS ("Receptive Language"): Activity Week 1

Play a version of Simon Says:

Tell your child (or children), "Let's play a game to see how many directions we can remember and follow". Sit on the floor facing your child. If there is more than one child, sit in a small circle on the floor.

Playing the game: You will give simple directions for the children to do, such as "touch your eyes", "open your mouth really wide", close your eyes, "stand up" (if able), "sit down" (if a child is standing), "shake your hands", "raise your arms up", "shrug your shoulders", "tap your knees", "wiggle your toes", "pinch your nose", "wave hello", "bend your knees up", "arch your back", "turn your head" and other actions you can think of. You can use "Simon says...." if you like.

If you have or can find a copy of HEAD TO TOE by Eric Carle, you can read this book either BEFORE or after the activity. It's a wonderful picture book showing animals doing many different actions. If you have a computer or other electronic device, you can google the name of the book and click "video" or find the book using the following link: <https://stories.audible.com/>

GOALS ADDRESSED:

- Vocabulary: names of body parts; names of common actions
- Following simple action directions
- Following multiple-step directions
- Imitating actions
- Taking turns

ADAPTING THE GAME DEPENDING ON YOUR CHILD'S LANGUAGE LEVEL:

1. **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE JUST LEARNING TO UNDERSTAND WORDS:** Give directions that are just ONE ACTION AT A TIME. YOU also follow the direction, which provides a model for your child and helps your child understand the direction. Praise your child often for each direction that is followed. Encourage your child by saying, "Yes – you closed your eyes! I did, too!" Repeating the words helps to develop comprehension. Use just a few action words and re-use them using different body parts. For instance: "touch your eyes", "now touch your nose", "shake your hands", "now shake your head".
2. **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE WORKING ON EXPANDING THEIR COMPREHENSION OF WORDS (ESPECIALLY ACTION WORDS OR VERBS):** Start with single action directions and then move to two-step directions ("close your eyes and shake your hands"). Before you move to two-step directions, give your child a heads-up and challenge, saying that you will now give two directions.
3. **FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE WORKING ON LISTENING TO LONGER DIRECTIONS:** Start with single action commands, then move to two-step commands ("close your eyes and shake your hands") and finally to three-step commands ("close your eyes, shake your hands and say "WOW"). You can also give your child an opportunity to be the direction-giver. If there is more than one child, each one can get a turn to give a direction. Encourage use of a variety of ACTION WORDS (verbs).