Listening to sounds around the home and when out and about help children tune into listening.

Draw your child’s attention to everyday sounds that can be heard inside and outside. Say “listen”, tell them what you hear and copy the sound – for example “Listen! I hear the doorbell – ding dong”.

Try to make different sounds during play – if you are playing with vehicles make a range of vehicle sounds and show them the vehicle, for pretend tea set play make eating and drinking noises, for animal play make the noise and show them the animal.

Try this...

- Matching animal sounds – use animal toys and make the sounds to match, encourage the child to pick which animal makes the noise.
- Musical instrument matching – use pairs of instruments or single instruments with pictures.
- Sound lotto/bingo – use real objects and make the sound to match, or use pictures, make the sound and encourage your child to point to the correct picture.
- Sound hunt – go on a sound hunt around the house or outside. What can you hear? Can you hear the microwave, the birds, trees blowing, a clock ticking....