

Progression in pre-phonics skills

Children need to be able to look closely, remembering what they see, hear and say. Children also need to be able to make sounds, matching them with objects, people, or patterns.

Ideas to develop Auditory Discrimination and Auditory Memory

- Sing songs every day *without* You Tube, too much visual stimulation reduces the auditory memory process.
- Read the same stories and rhymes repeatedly; this builds strong neural pathways in the brain in the area which associates processing with storing what children hear.
- Organise stories and songs into a progression, starting with easy rhymes like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, building to complex songs like One Man Went to Mow. Think less about topics and themes, and more about where children are along the pre-phonics progression.
- Play games like Simon Says, I Went To The Shops and I Bought... or whispering 'pass it on' word games to help the children hear, store and repeat what they've just heard.



2 year olds

Learning Intention	Suggested activities
Listen and join in with stories, songs and rhymes	Repeat finger play and rhymes until known off by heart Go on a listening walk
Makes sounds as I join in with stories and songs.	Make loud and quite sounds including whilst walking Make shakers
Match the sound that I've heard with a picture.	Noisy dice game – From Super Sounds Traffic light game – From Super Sounds Noisy eggs – From Super Sounds
Copy the sounds that I've heard	Explore a range of books and repeat often Inset puzzles Matching games
Name some animal/objects and make their sound.	Exploring musical instruments Shape sorters

3 – 4 year olds

Learning Intention	Suggested activities
Listening and attention skills	Games from Super Sounds – The Learning Lady
Step 1 Make, match and copy everyday sounds	Games from Letters and Sounds
Step 2 Make, match and copy lots of sounds with our voices and bodies	
Developing phonological awareness	
Step 3 Learn to break words into syllables by playing with rhythm	
Step 4 Learn to break spoken words into chunks by hearing, copying and making rhymes	
Phonemic awareness	
Step 5 Learn to hear the similarities and differences in spoken words at the start of words	
Step 6 Learn to hear and say separate sounds in words	