Halton Preschool Speech and Language Program

PEEL PRESCHOOL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SERVICES

Help Your Child Communicate…

By Improving Listening Skills

Listening is a skill that develops gradually and there are many things we can do to help this process. Very often children have difficulty listening when they are:

- distracted,
- do not understand what is going on, or
- have difficulty hearing

When your child has difficulty listening, the very first thing to do is to check that his or her hearing is adequate. Once you have ruled that out, here are a few things to try when talking with your child:

- To prevent distractions, be sure to be at your child's physical level so you can make eye contact as you talk
- Get your child's attention by touching his or her arm, saying his or her name, etc.
- When possible, use visual aids to keep your child's attention (e.g. pictures, real objects, toys, etc.)
- In group settings, make sure your child is near to the leader of the group
- Reward your child for listening by using a lot of praise, such as "I like the way you were listening", "That was good listening", " You were really paying attention, that's great!"

At first you will have to think about this strategy. After a while, though, it will become automatic. For the next two weeks, place this sheet on the fridge and keep track of how often you gave the strategy a try.

I gave this a try:	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐