

Attention and Listening

Ages 2–3

Listening is a complex and active process involving hearing, understanding and interpreting sounds. The ability to listen and attend is fundamental to toddlers' growing communication and language development.

Between the ages of two and three years old, toddlers may:



continue to enjoy songs, rhymes and sounds

be able to focus for longer durations (but may find noisy environments or larger groups a challenge)

begin to listen with interest

respond well if an adult gains their full attention first by calling their name

switch attention and stop what they are doing before moving on to another engaging activity



Please note: This resource has been made to help educators reflect on children's learning and development in the early years. Learning can take many different forms, so please keep in mind that the poster will only provide a snapshot of what children may be learning and developing at this stage.

Disclaimer: Every setting's needs are different and so the recommendations in this resource may not be suitable for all settings. The examples used are not an exhaustive list and it is for you to consider whether it is appropriate to use this guidance within your setting.