

# STAGE ONE: ACTIVITIES

## LISTENING

Teaching children to develop good listening skills is not only a vital step in the future success of learning phonics, it is also crucial for developing good learning dispositions. This can be sub-divided into:

- specific skills training
- listening to sounds in the environment
- identifying speech sounds.

### A GOOD LISTENER

#### Objective

To be able to listen attentively.

#### What you need

'Listen to me' photocopiable page 20; two puppets; easel.

#### What to do

- With a small group of children or the whole class read the story of 'Listen to me' on photocopiable page 20, using the puppets to role play the good and bad listener.
- Talk about the different characters and ask the children why it is important to be a good listener.
- Encourage the children to re-enact the story in role play. You may like to set up a role play specifically, for the children.
- Later, or on another day, recap on the story. Ask the children to turn to their partner and decide on one thing that we need to remember when we are listening.

- Take the children's responses and write the main points on the easel. Include a small drawing to represent each, similar to the example at the bottom of the page.

- Use this as a poster to remind the children of the main aspects of good listening.

- As a follow-up, use the puppets to identify good listeners, or play a game of 'Who is Rag looking at?' Follow instructions given by the puppet, for example: to stand up, sit down, walk to the door and so on. Ask children to recall the sequence of instructions by choosing different children to either tell the others the order they carried out the instructions, or to re-enact them.

#### Further activities

- Play a game of 'Simon says'.
- Play 'Follow-my-leader'. Ask the children to copy either the teacher or another child with a range of actions (holding up left arm or shaking right leg) as they move around the room.
- Play *Look hear* (available from LDA Learning, ISBN 0-742-42372-7). The idea is to give the children a gameboard with pictures that represent sounds. They listen to a tape and put a counter on the corresponding sound.
- Play 'I went to market and I bought...' Model the game first. Say to the class: 'I went to market and I bought a loaf of bread, a pint of milk and a piece of cheese.' Ask the children to take turns to repeat the items and then add another one of their own.
- Play 'Hum the tune'. Hum a nursery rhyme or familiar tune and ask children to guess what it is.
- Sing a range of songs with the children that require them to listen carefully and repeat.

