Children learn from what they see and hear going on around them, so developing good looking and attention skills is important.

As a child grows, their learning depends on their ability to develop and maintain their concentration span. With good attention and listening skills, your child’s talking and learning will progress.

How to help

⇒ Work/play somewhere quiet, without distractions. Turn off the TV, radio and telephones.
⇒ Sit down opposite your child, so you are at the same level, facing each other.
⇒ Call your child’s name before asking them to do something.
⇒ Make sure your child is looking at you when talking to them. If you need to, gently turn their head towards you.
⇒ Have just one toy or activity out to concentrate on. Put other toys out of sight.
⇒ Always encourage your child to finish what they are doing, e.g. puzzle, drawing, book.
⇒ Keep your instructions clear and simple. Stress the important words by saying them a little louder and clearer.
⇒ Keep things simple. It is better to finish a 3 piece puzzle than leave a harder one unfinished. Help if necessary, but don’t take over!
⇒ Talk about one thing at a time and talk about what is happening now.
⇒ Show your child how to take turns – “your turn, my turn”.
⇒ Stop when you feel you are losing your child’s interest. Try doing something else for a while, and go back to it later.
⇒ Give your child lots of praise and encouragement for good looking and listening.