

# Attention & Listening

## Developing Attention & Listening in KS1/2 children

### Activities and strategies to try:

#### Memory games:

- **Shopping game:** in a small group, take it in turns to name an item bought from the shop. Each person has to remember what item previous group members have named. Increase the number of items the child has to remember.
- **Kim's game:** place a number of item on the table (4 or more). Allow the child to look at them for a few seconds, then cover them over. The child has to remember as many items as they can.
- **Pairs games:** have a selection of matching pairs picture cards, face down on the table. Take it in turns with the child to turn over two pictures at a time, to find a matching pair. Pairs that do not match must be turned face down again, and the child has to remember where each picture is in order to find a matching pair on their next turn.

#### Guessing games:

- **Guess who?:** in a group, take it in turns to describe somebody else in the group. The other group members have to guess who is being described.
- **20 questions:** put objects or pictures in a bag. In a group, take turns to choose one item and then the other group members ask questions to guess what the item is, e.g. is it an animal? Does it say "moo"?

#### Barrier games:

- **Drawing:** give instructions to the child about what to draw eg "draw a green square"; "draw a house with a red door". The child must listen and carry out the instructions. As the child's concentration skills increase, gradually make the instructions longer and harder.
- **Hideaway:** have two sets of identical everyday objects. Place a barrier (eg a big book) between you and the child. Give instructions for the child to put them in different positions (e.g. cup under plate, book on the pencil). The aim is for each player to have identical results when the barrier is removed.