

## Learning Mat



Information for adults:

**What does 'listening' mean?**  
To give attention to someone  
or something in order to hear  
him, her or it.

### Nursery rhyme with instruments

Hunt around the house with your child looking for equipment you can use to make sounds with (pots and pans, packets and papers, cutlery and wooden spoons). Once you have collected your instruments, you can use them to make background music for your favourite nursery rhymes. Use quieter instruments for Twinkle Twinkle, and louder for The Grand Ole Duke of York.



Our focus is...

# Listening 2

## Story sounds

As you read or tell stories, encourage your child to play their instruments in different ways (e.g. *Make this instrument sound like giant's footsteps, ... a fairy fluttering, ... a cat pouncing, ... an elephant stamping*). Invite them to make their own suggestions for different characters (e.g. *How might Jack's feet sound as he tiptoes by the sleeping giant? And what about when he runs fast to escape down the beanstalk?*)

## Hide and Seek with instruments

Play a game of hide and seek, but when you hide, make a noise with an instrument. This will encourage your child to listen and follow the noise. Take turns hiding and finding.

As your child grows in confidence, make this game more challenging by making quieter noises with your instrument.

THE ART OF  
**LISTENING**



We need to master the skill of  
listening  
to ensure we hear future learning

## Adjust the volume

Sit opposite your child with an instrument each. Listen to the sounds the instruments make, exploring all the instruments you have. Choose one instrument each and ask your child to copy the sounds you make. Try making loud sounds and quiet sounds. Move on to fast sounds and slow sounds. Can you make loud, slow sounds and quiet, fast sounds?

## Be a Good Listener

