

Listen to Me How to use guide

Listen To Me Childhood Communication guide

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For Parents and Carers

This is a guide for parents, carers and teachers to explain how to engage with our 'Listen to Me – Childhood Communication' booklet with your child.

The booklet consists of:

- **Listen to Me Pictures**
- **A Listen to Me Board**
- **Communication Cards**
- **A Listen to My Story Board.**

Listen to Me Pictures

Where are they?

Listen to Me pictures are on pages 5, 7 and 9. The pictures are images of common places (e.g. school), activities (e.g. running) and likes (e.g. reading).

How to use them?

They can be used alongside the Listen to Me board, and can also be used on their own as a communication aid for your child. They can assist your child with communicating the choices they wish to make. The cards in this booklet can be used to show likes, dislikes and daily routine activities. The pictures provided in the booklet can help to get you started if you don't yet have your own pictures and photos.

Who are they for?

They can also be an important tool for parents and carers – you can show these cards to your child as you are speaking to ensure understanding.

You can assist your child with cutting these cards out, and possibly laminating them. You can print out further images and create custom pictures that suit your child's needs. Make sure you show your child how to use their Listen to Me pictures.

Listen to Me Board

Where is it?

The Listen to Me Board is on page 11. It consists of three columns: I Like..., O.K., & I Don't Like....

How to use it?

The board enables your child to place the Listen to Me pictures on the appropriate category (I like...; O.K.; I don't like...) to communicate their likes and dislikes to others. They could use it to communicate what they would like to do, or perhaps something they are not happy to do. Make sure you show your child how to use their Listen to Me board and give them clear examples.

Who is it for?

The board should be cut out of the booklet, and kept in a place where your child can access it. This may be a schoolbag, where they can use it to communicate with their teachers and peers, or kept in a drawer or cupboard at home where he/she knows where it is. You may want to make a copy of the board for your child to keep in school. You could also make multiple copies of the board to keep in different places in the house, if necessary.

Communication Cards

Where are they?

Communication Cards are on pages 12, 13 & 15. These cards display common phrases (e.g. I don't understand) and instructions (e.g. please help me) that your child may use.

How to use them?

These can be used by your child to show his/her teachers, friends and family phrases that they may not be able to communicate clearly. If your child has difficulty with speech, they can point to their cards to indicate what they are trying to communicate. If they are going somewhere that is unfamiliar or new, communication cards may aid him/her with their speech and avoid confusion or frustration for your child. Children who speak well can also benefit from the Communication Cards as we know that when children are upset they find it hard to say some of these things – it's much easier to point, then a conversation can follow. Using the Cards can prevent children from 'shutting down'.

Make sure you show your child how to use his/her communication cards.

Listen to My Story Board

Where is it?

The Listen to My Story Board is on pages 18 & 19. The board consists of three boxes for images or pictures and three text boxes. Your child can put a picture in the image box and accompany this with text.

How to use them?

This encourages your child to use both pictures and written words to communicate. They can use their board to tell you about their day, encouraging them to use both pictures and their own written text. This can also be used by parents and carers to communicate stories to their children. For example, using pictures and words on the board to tell a social story, or to communicate a routine (e.g. morning routine) to your child.

Make sure you show your child how to use their Listen to My Story board and give clear examples.

All of the resources in the 'Childhood Communication' booklet should be used as an aid and are not a replacement for other methods of communication.