

**Listening Skills Progression Chart (Nursery – Year 6)**

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| Year Group | Listening Expectations | Supporting Activities |
| Nursery | - Listens to familiar sounds, voices, and simple instructions. - Begins to respond to name and simple verbal prompts. - Listens to short stories and rhymes with increasing attention. | - Singing nursery rhymes and action songs. - Playing listening games like “Simon Says.” - Using instruments for sound discrimination. - Story time with repeated refrains. |
| Reception (EYFS) | - Listens to others in one-to-one and small group settings. - Maintains attention during short stories or discussions. - Begins to respond with relevant comments or actions. - Understands and follows two-part instructions. | - Story sequencing and retelling with props. - Turn-taking games and circle time discussions. - Visual aids to support auditory instructions. - Drama/role play to encourage active listening. |
| Year 1 | - Listens attentively to spoken language. - Responds appropriately to simple questions and instructions. - Listens to others and begins to wait their turn in conversation. - Understands and recalls key story events. | - Paired talk and listening games (e.g., “telephone” game). - Read-aloud sessions with questioning. - Using talking partners. - Simple note-taking/drawing after listening. |
| Year 2 | - Listens with sustained attention in different contexts (e.g., classroom, assemblies). - Responds to multi-step instructions. - Listens and contributes appropriately in group discussions. - Shows understanding by asking and answering relevant questions. | - Barrier games (where listening is crucial to complete a task). - Recording and playing back student responses. - Comprehension activities based on audio clips or read-alouds. - Role-play interviews or presentations. |
| Year 3 | - Listens to extended explanations and contributes relevant ideas. - Identifies key points in oral presentations. - Listens respectfully and responds appropriately to different viewpoints. - Starts to infer meaning from tone or implication. | - Guided group discussions with clear roles (e.g., speaker, listener). - Audio stories followed by comprehension tasks. - Debating simple topics with structured turns. - Listening journals or note-taking. |
| Year 4 | - Listens for specific information in longer spoken texts. - Understands implied meanings and opinions. - Reflects on what has been heard and offers a considered response. - Summarises main points from a discussion or presentation. | - Class debates and structured group tasks. - Listening and summarising news reports or podcasts. - Peer presentations with peer review. - Active listening checklists during listening tasks. |
| Year 5 | - Listens and responds critically to a range of speakers. - Distinguishes between fact and opinion. - Engages with increasingly complex verbal information. - Listens and contributes with sustained focus and appropriate questioning. | - Note-taking from oral sources (e.g., assemblies, guest speakers). - Analysing speeches or persuasive language. - Evaluating peer presentations or performances. - Creating mind maps from listening tasks. |
| Year 6 | - Demonstrates confident and active listening in formal and informal contexts. - Evaluates arguments and justifies responses. - Recognises rhetorical devices and persuasive techniques. - Adapts responses to suit audience and purpose. | - High-level debates and discussions on current events. - Critical listening tasks (e.g., TED-style talks, podcasts). - Preparing formal responses to speeches or oral texts. - Collaborative problem-solving tasks requiring precise listening. |

**Tips for Whole-School Support**

* **Visual cues and prompts**: Especially effective for early years and SEN.
* **Consistent routines**: Develop attention and listening expectations early on.
* **Model good listening**: Teachers and TAs model active listening behaviours.
* **Build metacognitive strategies**: Encourage children to reflect on *how* they listen and why it’s important.
* **Use technology**: Recordings, podcasts, and interactive listening tasks can enhance engagement.