

Heritage Learning Center Skill Sheet

Listening skills

At Heritage we strive to help the children develop effective listening skills for their future academic success. There are three parts to effective listening.

- Concentration – the child is able to pay attention to what is said
- Understanding – the child comprehends what is being said
- Response – the child reacts appropriately to what is said

You can further help your child further their listening ability by using some of the following techniques:

Concentration: Converse often with your child. By participating in conversations the child is furthering the ability to pay attention to words.

Read and tell stories

Play "Simon Says"

Maintain eye contact when giving instructions

Ask the child to repeat what you have said

Remember, concentration does not develop in one session. Repeated practice will make paying attention become habit.

Comprehension: Use a variety of words to develop vocabulary. For example, talk about climate, holidays, time, geography and nature with your child. Ask questions that arouse curiosity, such as "What causes sailboats to go?"

Read books – no other activity has so much value for so little investment. Read the same favorite books over and over so your child knows every word and comprehends every idea. Ask questions about the story, but not so many that it interferes with the pleasure.

Response: Children who respond in positive ways almost always do well in school. They are happy and competent. You can help your child to make appropriate responses by encouraging the child's efforts. Discuss with the child in advance what an appropriate response would be to a new situation.

At HLC we encourage listening skills throughout the day but put a particular emphasis on this skill during circle and story times.