

Listening and Attention: Developmental Progression

Age	Attention Level	Group Pa
0 - 1	Fleeting attention Easily distracted.	Operating as an individual. Showing interest in other children. Only attends to adults when they e child).
1 - 2	Attends to own choice of activity. Momentarily distracted by adult's choice of activity.	
2 - 3	Can switch attention to adult's choice of activity with firm direction. Can only concentrate on one thing at a time, involving either looking, listening or doing.	Copies leader and rest of group with Beginning to listen with group for a
3 - 4	Can switch and sustain attention more easily but still focuses on only one thing at a time, i.e. needs to stop activity in order to listen.	Increases sitting and waiting time f snack time. Beginning to take turns and repeat
4 - 5	Beginning to integrate focus of attention for short spells (e.g. can listen to speaker while continuing task.)	Listening and turn-taking in a small Different roles within group activity
5 - 6	Can successfully integrate focus of attention and sustain for longer periods (e.g. can talk to neighbour while completing task and notice when teacher gives new instruction).	Listening and turn-taking in a large Group discussion. Negotiates different roles in playgr

Developmental stages of attention Cooper, J. Moodley, M. & Reynell, J. (1978)

Taken from Helping Children to Hang on to Your Every Word, Johnson, M. (2009)