Attention & Listening

Developing Active Listening Skills

Activities and strategies to try:

- Use **active listening cue cards** to teach “good listening”; “good looking”; “good sitting” etc.
- When the child does one of these things well, show the child the relevant cue card and **praise them using specific language** (e.g. ‘I can see you’re listening because you’re looking at me’). The picture helps the child to understand what they’ve done well and the praise motivates the child to continue listening
- Go through each of the cards at the beginning of the session to **remind the children what good listening involves**. For example: ‘good sitting’ means putting your bottom on the floor with your legs crossed and trying your best to sit still.
- Pin all the pictures up where the children can see them during the group. **Refer to them** throughout the group, e.g. praise children by pointing to the relevant picture and telling them they are doing good sitting etc.
- At story time, **use story strings** and ask the children to place objects or pictures on the story string in the order they appear in the story. (Can be string between two chairs with pegs).
- Use finger puppets / objects / character pictures –the children hold up the appropriate puppet / picture / object when they are mentioned in the story.
- Encourage the children to retell or act out a familiar story the following day – see how much they can accurately recall.
- **Reward charts** can be introduced to reinforce a particular skill or behaviour. Eg “good listening”.

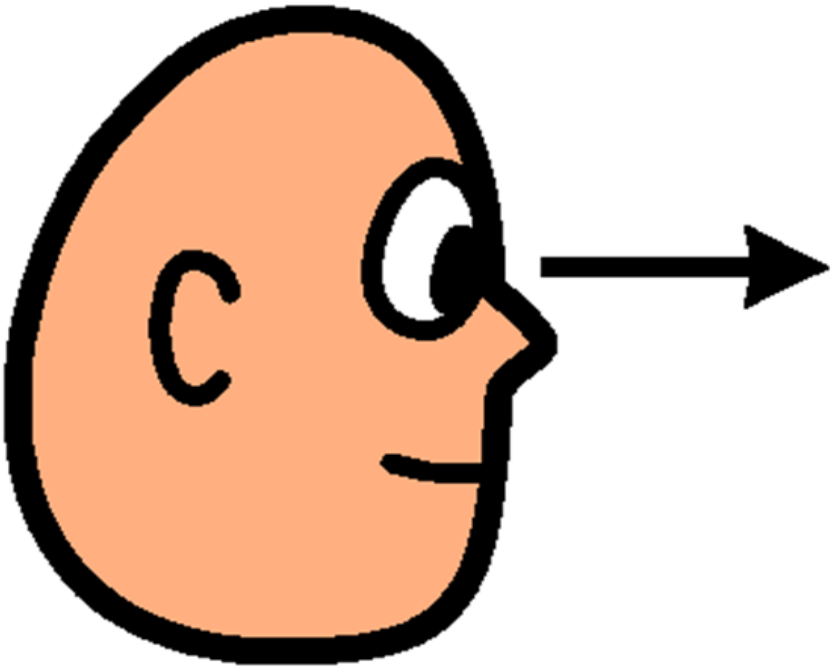
Resources to support:

- **Active listening cue cards**
- **Active listening reward chart**

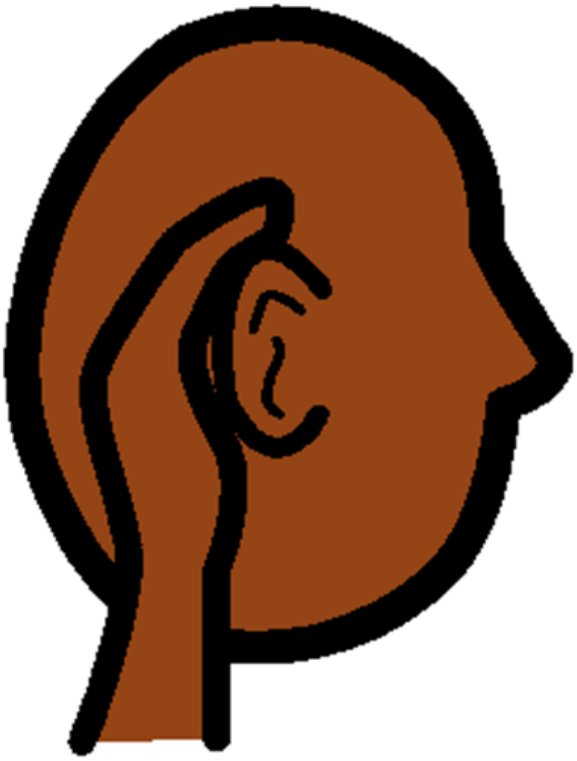


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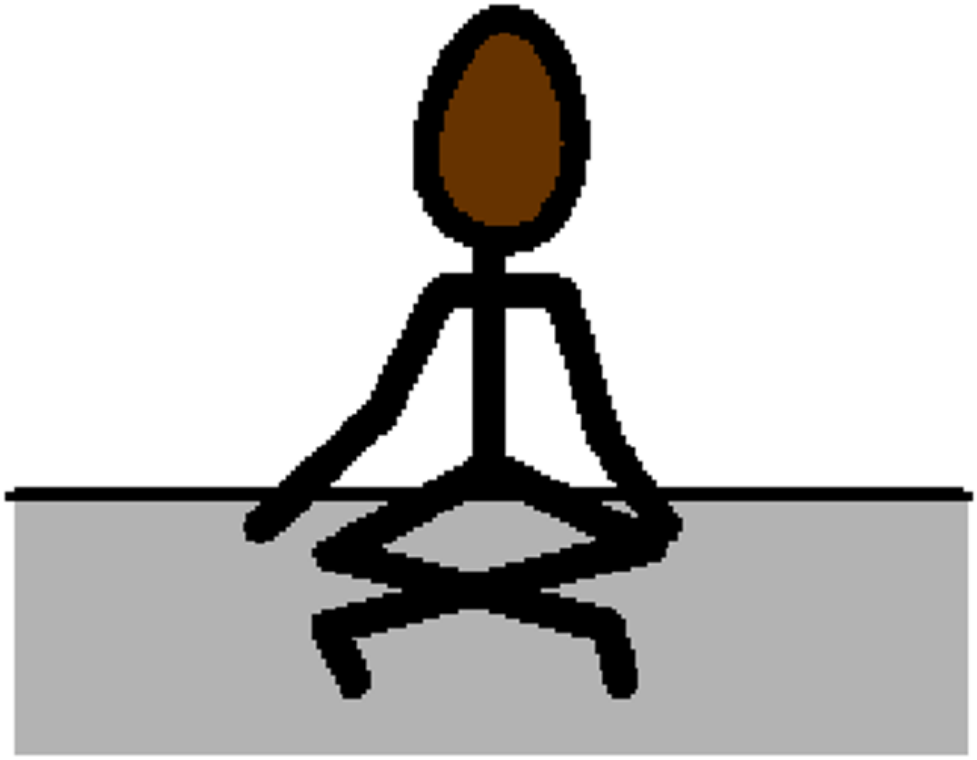
Good Looking



Good Listening



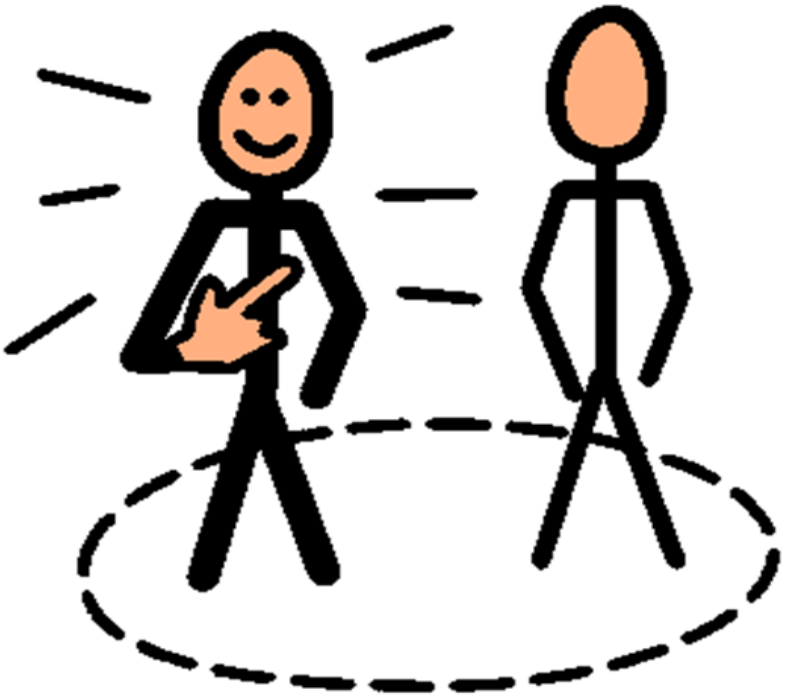
Good Sitting



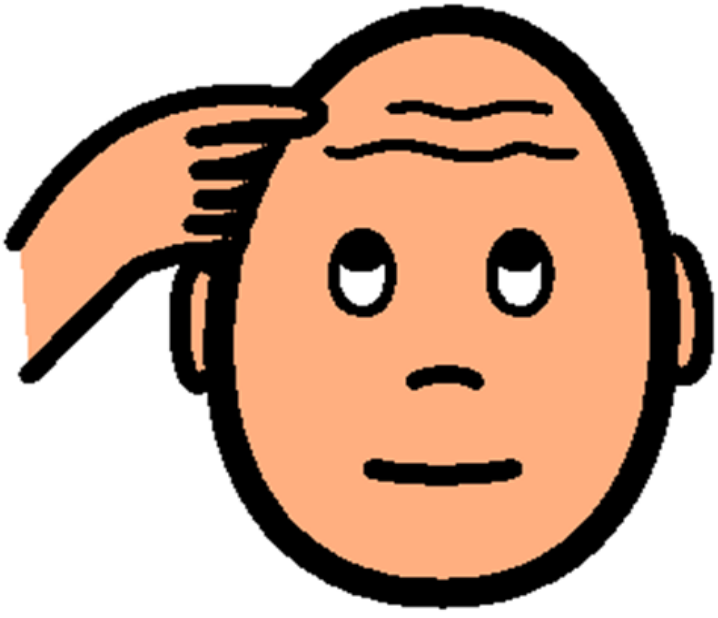
Good Sitting



Good Taking Turns



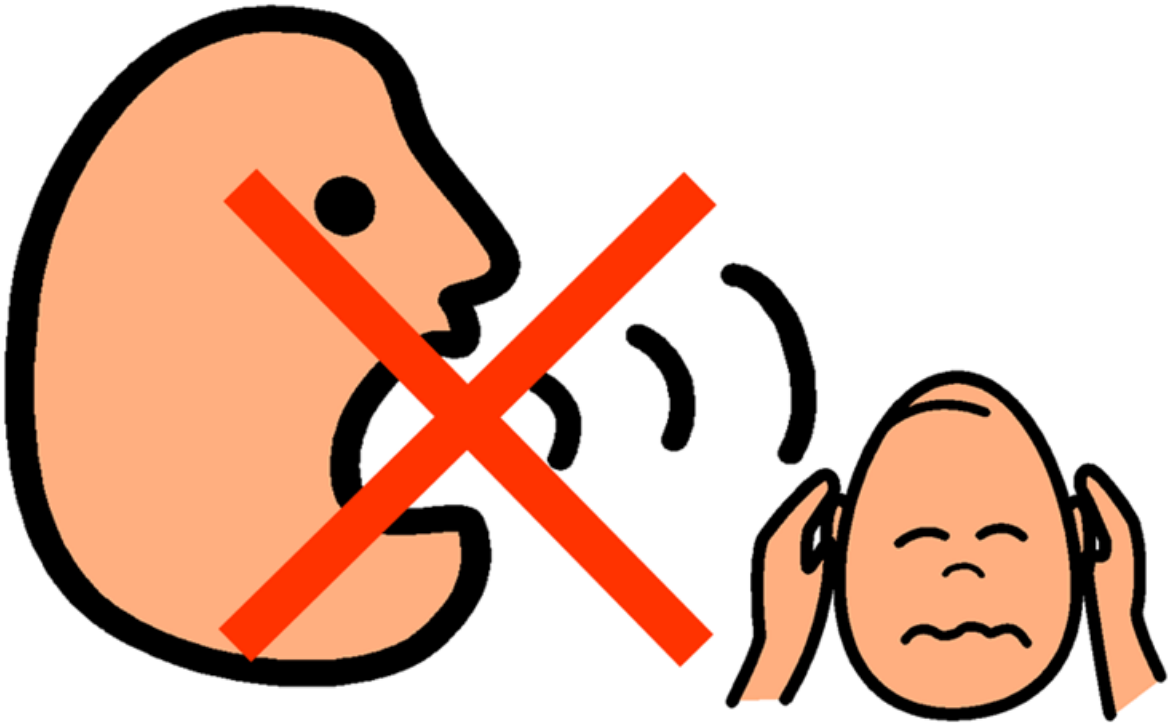
Good Thinking

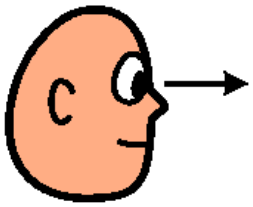


Hands Up



Don't Shout



Good Looking 	Good Listening 	Good Sitting 	Good Taking Turns 	Good Thinking 