

## The Gift of Listening

Good listening helps build positive relationships with others. Children who use effective listening skills to show that they are listening tell others that what they are saying is important and valued.

Here are behaviors that children can use to give the Gift of Listening to others:

### 1. GIVE THE SPEAKER YOUR ATTENTION.

- Stop what you are doing and look at the speaker.
- This lets the speaker know that what he or she is saying is important to you.

### 2. ASK THE SPEAKER TO TELL YOU MORE.

- Ask questions or comment about what the speaker has said.
- This lets the speaker know that you are listening and want to know more.

### 3. SHOW YOU ARE INTERESTED BY YOUR ACTIONS.

- Nodding and leaning forward are examples of body language that shows you are listening.
- This lets the speaker know you are interested in what he or she is saying.

Your daily conversations provide opportunities for you to model how to be a good listener while allowing your child to practice one of the most essential skills for success in life.

## Building Your Child's Social and Emotional Competence

Relationship skills is a social and emotional learning competency that helps children establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships with diverse individuals and groups. These activities help children build essential communication skills.

### Mime It!

To help your child become accustomed to using and reading body language, mime gestures and postures for him or her. Ask your child to guess what the gestures and postures mean.

### Write a Poem!

Ask your child to write an acrostic poem with the letters in *gift* to reinforce understanding of the Gift of Listening. Have your child write the letters vertically on the left. Then have them write a word, phrase, or sentence about giving that begins with the letters G-I-F-T.



*The Gift  
of Listening*

Many children are experiencing feelings of uncertainty, anxiety, and fear due to the onset of COVID-19. They need a chance to share their thoughts and feelings and ask questions. Make sure you are accurately informed and ready to educate your child knowing the information is evolving all the time. Get information from: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.