

# 7 FUN GAMES TO DEVELOP ACTIVE LISTENING SKILLS

Active listening means paying attention and hearing what the other person is saying without interrupting. Have fun practicing these skills with the following activities that can be played in the car, at bedtime, at mealtime or anytime!

## Storytelling Games

**1 Popcorn stories**  
Start with a sentence such as "Once upon a time there was a very large shiny stone near a narrow river..." and the next person recounts everything they just heard before adding their sentence.

**2 Spot the silly**  
Tell a story about anything. It can be something that happened during the day or in a book or movie. But add an absurd detail. Challenge your child to listen to the whole story, without interrupting. When the story is over, see if they can spot 'the silly'. "Today I was making lunch-I chopped the carrots and beets and was going to add them to the salad when the apple in the basket said, 'hey lady, don't forget the egg.' I thanked her and opened the refrigerator, took out the boiled egg, and crumbled it into the salad..."

## Games to Talk About Your Day

**3 If you could see inside my head**  
One person says, "If you could see inside head, you would know that..." finishing the sentence with something about themselves. The other person listens and then takes a turn completing the sentence with something about what's inside their head. Afterwards, each person repeats what the other person said.

**4 High Low Buffalo**  
Everyone takes turns sharing something from their day that made them feel good (a high), something that didn't go so well (a low), and something unexpected or silly (the buffalo).

## Classic Games

**5 Simon Says**  
Directions are given ("Touch your head.") But kids only act on them if the speaker says "Simon says" first. Kids really have to pay attention to decide if they should follow through with the direction or take no action!

**6 20 questions**  
One person thinks of an object that others have to guess. They can ask up to 20 "yes" or "no" questions to guess what the object is.

## New Classics

**7 When I say 'go'....:**  
This is a great game to get kids moving, like when it's time to leave the park. "Keep your ears open! When I say 'GO' take 10 elephant steps toward the parking log...Good! Now, when I say 'GO' take 5 little frog hops toward the parking lot...". Try saying rhyming words instead of "go" so they really have to pay attention, "TOE! JOE!...GO!"