

5 WAYS TO LISTEN TO KIDS

GOOD LISTENERS LISTEN WITH THE HEART

BE INTERESTED & ATTENTIVE

Take the time to look at the speaker, even getting down on eye level so that you can maintain eye-contact. Good listening will often reduce tension and solve problems.



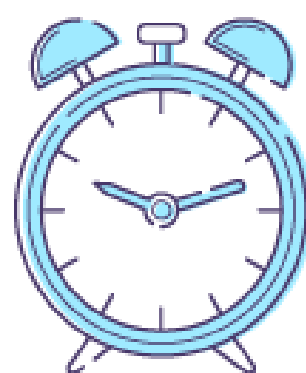
ENCOURAGE TALKING

Some children need an invitation to start talking. Ask questions to clarify all that they are saying and to draw them out. Don't rush them.



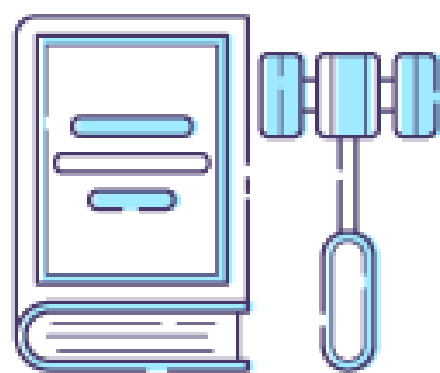
LISTEN PATIENTLY

People think faster than they speak. Children often take longer than adults to find the right word. Listen as though you have plenty of time. When listening to children, patience is a virtue.



HEAR CHILDREN OUT

Avoid cutting them off before they have finished speaking even if they are slow to finish. Reflect back your understanding of what's been said so that you are clear of what's been said.



LISTEN TO NON-VERBAL MESSAGES

Many of the messages children send are communicated non-verbally by their tone of voice, their facial expressions, their energy level, their posture, or changes in their behaviour patterns.

