

Attention Levels and Strategies (based on Cooper, Moodley and Reynell, 1978)

<p>Stage 1 0-1 year</p>	<p>Very distractible Can pay fleeting attention but any new event will distract. Language interferes with attention.</p>	<p>Child cannot attend to what you say</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discover child's motivators and incorporate into preferred activity, e.g., dinosaurs in sand tray
<p>Stage 2 1-2 years</p>	<p>Attention is single channelled. Will attend to own choice of activity, but will not tolerate intervention, particularly verbal. Language interferes with attention. Must ignore other stimuli in order to concentrate on chosen activity.</p>	<p>Your speech interferes with the activity the child is doing. Child needs to ignore you to concentrate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give child time to complete own choice of activity Gain child's attention - go nearer, call their name, touch their arm...
<p>Stage 3 2-3 years</p>	<p>Still single channelled. Will attend to adults' choice of activity, but still difficult control. Child must stop play to attend to adults, must listen and then shift attention back to activity with adult help.</p>	<p>Child can listen if he stops activity and looks at adult. Needs adult help to do this</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain child's attention - go nearer, call their name, touch their arm...
<p>Stage 4 3-4 years.</p>	<p>Single channelled, but more easily controlled. Adult verbalisation of tasks helps. Can shift attention between task and adult.</p>	<p>Child automatically looks when adult speaks. Can shift attention from task to speaker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call child's name, tell child it's time to listen, use a visual cue Tell the child that they can carry on working <u>whilst</u> listening to you - practice skill using a colouring activity
<p>Stage 5 4-5 years</p>	<p>Integrated attention for short time. Attention span is still short. Child listens to instructions without interrupting activity to look at speaker. Child externalises language.</p>	<p>Child <u>can</u> listen and attend well in class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signal when it's time to listen Praise good listening
<p>Stage 6 5-6 years</p>	<p>Integrated attention is well controlled and sustained. Child internalises language.</p>	<p>Child listens and attends well in class/other places</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praise good listening