

Auditory learners



ⁱWe take in information in many ways: through our eyes, our ears, our touch, our sense of smell and even taste. Most of us, however, have a dominant channel that is our preferred learning mode. If your child has a very strong auditory channel, this can be exploited when they are learning something new.

Ideas for auditory learners

- Encourage your child to listen to a new spelling pattern and find words that rhyme with it.

E.g. the 'ai' pattern as in mail. Your child might suggest tail, sail, fail. Encourage them to use blends too such as trail. You can vary the ending – rain, train, brain, maid, wait etc. Discuss the spelling pattern and write it down so that your child can identify the written pattern with the spoken sound.

- Use mnemonics – these are catchy phrases where the first letter of each word spells the word to be learned.

E.g. to learn a tricky word such as 'laugh'
lions and unicorns go ha ha ha

- Use catchphrases as a reminder of a spelling pattern.

E.g. I'll be your friend to the end
I like to eat meat

- Encourage your child to identify rhymes in poetry.

E.g. record a poem on to tape (or use a bought tape of poems) and get your child to clap when they hear a word that rhymes with a sound you have already said for them. Discuss the spelling pattern and write it down so that your child can identify the written pattern with the spoken sound.

- Let your child listen to a story as they read it.

E.g. You can borrow story book and tape sets from libraries which children like as they can control their own progress. Otherwise, you can read the story as the child holds the book and follows the words with his/her finger.

- Play verbal odd-one-out.

Each player says four words, three share the same sound and one is different. The other player has to identify the odd one out.

E.g. sock box flop rope
 man trap cake cat

This is good for developing auditory memory too.