The Listening Game

Goal: This game is primarily aimed at developing students’ capacity for listening. It may also develop other “skills for learning,” such as focusing attention and following directions.

Materials: 3 small musical instruments, e.g. castanets, a maraca, and a tambourine.

Object of the Game: to correctly repeat a series of sounds played by the leader.

Steps:

1. Sit in a circle and place the musical instruments in the middle.
2. Introduce students to the sound of each musical instrument.
3. Direct students to close their eyes.
4. Play a three-sound series using the instruments.
5. Invite students to open their eyes.
6. Ask for a volunteer to repeat the three-sound series using the instruments.
7. If student correctly repeats the pattern, celebrate! If a student does not correctly repeat the pattern, commend the student’s effort and invite another study to try.

Variations: As students’ improve at the game, increase the difficulty level by playing sequences with four or five sounds and/or introduce new instruments.