

A1: Start & Stop

Lesson Objective: Children will respond correctly as directed when a specific sound starts or stops.

Materials

A smartphone or computer that can play the sounds below:

- [alarm](#)
- [ambulance / police siren](#)
- [applause / cheering](#)
- [baby](#)
- [bell ringing](#)
- [bird](#)
- [cat](#)
- [coughing](#)
- [cow](#)
- [dog](#)
- [duck](#)
- [footsteps](#)
- [frog](#)
- [heartbeat](#)

Optional Script:

NOTE: There is no need to use all or even most of these sounds. Just pick a few that your child is familiar with. This game is about paying attention, not sound identification!

Activity

Video: How to play Start & Stop

Explain to your child that you are going to make (or play) a sound, and then demonstrate that noise so she knows what to listen for. Keep it simple—play part of a song, tap your fingers on a table, or just hum a tune. Have the child face away from you or the source of the sound, to be sure she’s listening and not just watching. Tell the child to raise her hand while the noise is playing, and lower her hand when it stops.

Adult: I am going to play a clapping sound. Listen. [Make or play clapping sound.] Did you hear clapping? Child: Yes! Adult: Good listening! This time, when you hear the clapping, raise your hand, like this. What will you do when you hear the noise? Child: Raise my hand. Adult: Yes, raise your hand. Listen. [Play sound and raise hand.] When the noise stops, we put our hand down. [Put hand down.] What did you do when the noise stopped? Child: Put my hand down. Adult: Yes, you put your hand down. You’re a good listener. This is fun! Let’s hear some new sounds!

NOTE: Use just one sound — clear and loud — until the child has mastered the activity. You don’t need to go through all the sounds — just pick one, or a few, that the child is familiar with. Some children do better when they close their eyes; it helps them focus on listening. Others do better holding up and object instead of their hand when they hear the sound.

Small Groups (2-5 children)

Adaptation: Read the main activity, watch the video, and follow the instructions above, with the following changes. Have children use a variety of motions to indicate when the sound begins or ends:

- thumbs up / thumbs down
- touch nose / touch ear
- stomp feet / tap knees
- “silent” clap / snap fingers

Observe the group for understanding of the concept.