

Development of attention skills

Stage	Level of Adult Involvement	Characteristics	What the child looks like
<p>1 0-12 months</p>	<p>Can pay fleeting attention, though highly distractible</p>	<p>Attention is held by dominant stimulus in the environment</p>	<p>Turns to sound of door banging, or to mum talking.</p>
<p>2 12-24 months</p>	<p>Rigid attention to his/her own choice of activity</p>	<p>Does not look up when name is called. Will look if touched as called.</p>	<p>Does not look up when name is called. Will look if touched as called.</p>
<p>3 2-3 years</p>	<p>Single channelled attention. Can attend to adult's choice of activity if under adult control.</p>	<p>Can shift attention from an instruction, then back to the task as long as an adult helps transfer attention.</p>	<p>Will look up from puzzle if chin is touched, and then back to puzzle when pointed at.</p>
<p>4 3-4 years</p>	<p>Single channelled attention: under child's control.</p>	<p>Child needs to give full attention, visual and auditory, to instructions, but doesn't need adult help to do this.</p>	<p>Can listen and then do something, but only one thing</p>

			at a time. Can listen to instructions whilst looking down at a book.
5 4-5 years	Integrated attention – for short spells.	Two-channelled attention. Child can take verbal direction without needing to interrupt the task and look up. Ready for class teaching.	Will stay at an activity without reminders.
6 6 years	Integrated attention	Can maintain integrated attention for a longer period of time, as necessary to concentrate adequately in the classroom.	

<https://www.slcc.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk/ActivitiesIdeasandInfo/ChildDevelopmentAgesandStages/DevelopmentofAttentionSkills/tabid/1313/language/en-US/Default.aspx>