

## Development of Attention

### **Level 1 (typically 0-1 years)**

Children at this level are extremely distractible, the child's attention flits from one object, person or event to another. Any new event, such as someone walking by will immediately distract them.

### **Level 2 (typically 1-2 years)**

Your child can concentrate on a concrete task of their own choosing, but will not like any intervention by an adult, whether verbal or visual and may appear obstinate or 'wilful'. Their attention is, in fact, single focussed and they try and block out all other stimuli in order to concentrate on what they are doing.

### **Level 3 (typically 2-3 years)**

Attention is single channelled in that your child cannot attend to auditory and visual stimuli from more than one source at one time. They find it difficult to listen to an adult's direction whilst they are playing, but are able to shift their whole attention to the speaker and then back to the game, with the adult's help.

### **Level 4 (typically 3-4 years)**

Your child must still alternate his full attention between the speaker and the task, but now does this spontaneously without the adult needing to focus their attention.

### **Level 5 (typically 4-5 years)**

Your child's attention is now two channelled, i.e. they understand verbal instructions related to the task without interrupting their activity to look at the speaker. Their concentration span may still be short but they can be taught in a group.

### **Level 6 (typically 5-6 years)**

Auditory, visual and manipulatory channels are fully integrated and attention is well established and sustained. They are gradually able to shut out unwanted, irrelevant information and concentrate only on essential aspects.