Children with hearing loss tend to rely on visual and tactile information before listening. Learning to listening can be a lot of work, as it takes time and practice to understand sound. During this activity you will use the LSL strategy “auditory first” to help your child focus on the words they heard while giving them a chance to process the meaning of what has been said.

**ACTIVITY**

1. Choose an individual to represent “Simon”. In this case, it would be a parent, caregiver, older sibling, grandparent, or family member. Whoever is chosen will stand as the leader of the game.
2. Simon gives commands to the listener (child). The commands can be given in two different ways: beginning a command by saying, “Simon says...” or stating the command directly eliminating the words “Simon says”.
3. Depending on which way the command is phrased, your child will either obey the command, or not.
4. Your child must listen closely to what the leader, Simon, commands them to do. If Simon gives a command by first stating “Simon says...” the listener must do what they heard. If Simon gives a command without first saying “Simon says...” the listener will not follow the prompt.
5. Try to only use your words as you are giving these prompts/directions. This will help your child learn to listen for the prompts and directions.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**
- Simon Says Prompts

**PREPARATION:**
1- Suggested commands or make up your own.

**VOCABULARY:**
- Sit
- Turn around
- Wiggle
- Jump
- Hop
- Roll
- March
- Twist
- Shake
- Snap
- Clap
- Wave
- Walk
- Balance
- Leg
- Finger
- Foot
- Toes
- Hands
- Ears
- Knee
- Eyes
- Elbow
- Mouth
- Hips
- Nose
- Head

**HELPFUL TIPS:**
- When working on following simple directions, start with one-step directions (Simon Says touch your nose), then increase the level of difficulty by having your child listen for and do 2-3 things (Simon Says touch your nose then wiggle your fingers).
- Remember to try not to point to the body parts or hint to the movements you’ve added to the prompt. This includes facial cues or body gestures.
- Play this game while in the car, eating breakfast, getting ready for the day, or to get wiggles out!

Special thanks to graduate students in the Listening and Spoken Language Deaf Education graduate training program at Utah State University. These pages can be reproduced for educational purposes.

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SIMON SAYS

Play a game of Simon Says with the following instructions:

- Sit down
- Turn around
- Wiggle your fingers
- Jump up and down
- Hop on one foot
- Touch your toes
- Pat your head
- Clap your hands
- Raise both hands in the air
- Touch your ears
- Stick out your tongue
- Stand on your toes
- Roll on the floor
- March in place
- Wiggle your nose
- Twist your body
- Bend your knees
- Shake your head

- Cover your eyes
- Hands on your shoulders
- Touch your elbow
- Stomp your feet
- Snap your fingers
- Wave your hand
- Touch your mouth
- Smile
- Flap your arms
- Close your eyes
- Thumbs up
- Put your hands on your hips
- Run in place
- Touch your nose
- Walk in place
- Shake your body
- Balance on one leg
- Pat your head and stomach