

This resource is a list of attention getters intended to cut through the noise and chatter and get those eyes on you! Program Leaders and Program Staff can use these tried-and-true attention getters with any age group with just a little preparation. Make sure to teach your participants their parts and practice regularly to use them successfully.



## Quiet Coyote/Silent Wolf/Silent Llama

This hand gesture has many names but should always inspire silence! When children see you raise your hand in the “quiet coyote” gesture, they should immediately stop talking and hold their hand up to match. Encourage children to get into the spirit of the game and make it a race – who can hold up their quiet coyote the fastest?



## Quiet Curtain

This is best done by a couple leaders who stand at the front of the room with their arms raised above their heads. When most of the group has noticed, the leaders slowly bring down the “Quiet Curtain” by lowering their hands all the way to the ground at the same speed. Participants should bring down the noise in the room accordingly until it’s silent when the leaders’ hands reach the ground.



## Whistle/Bell/Tamborine (or other instrument)

Simple and effective! Use a whistle, cowbell or any other loud instrument that will get attention. Make sure kids know what to do when they hear the noise – whether that’s stop talking or find their seat or line up at the door.



## “One, two, three, eyes on me.”

This one requires no response other than to pay attention. With enough practice, any phrase can become the “everyone get quiet” phrase. This is fun because it rhymes but you can use any short, simple phrase that you want.



## Clapping Rhythm

There are two ways to use clapping or stomping to get attention.

- First, you can do a call and response where the leader claps the first part of a rhythm and the participants answer with the ending. For example, the tune of “Shave and a Haircut – Two Bits” is common: “bum bum ba dum bum,” and the response is “bum bum.”
- The second option is to have children repeat what the leader does, and you can make it interesting and different every time. This is a fun way to play with rhythm and listening – use clapping, stomping, knee patting and vary the rhythm every time.



## Spontaneous Song

Good for younger kids and any arts or music programs! Start singing a short song everyone knows, like *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* or *Wheels on the Bus*, and everyone should join in. When the song or verse ends, you'll have everyone's attention. Be sure you practice so kids know the song and that they should sing along when they hear it.



## "If you can hear me, clap once."

If you've got a large group or are in a large space where youth are spread out, this can work well because the clapping gets louder as more kids join in. Staff begins by saying the phrase at a normal volume level and the youth closest to them should stop and clap once. Then continue repeating the phrase, adding a clap each time (clap twice, clap three times, etc.). Usually, by the time you reach four claps, everyone has started listening and joining in the clapping.



## "Let's go, Yankees..." (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap)

Substitute your favorite local sports team and imagine you're at the ballpark! The leader starts with the team cheer and youth respond with the clap. Make sure you demonstrate so children who haven't been to a sporting event know what to do.

## Call and Response

### Leader yells out the first part, children respond.

Have fun with it, use silly voices, and ask children to respond in the same voice you use!

**Call:** "Macaroni and cheese."

**Response:** "Everybody freeze."

**Call:** "Hocus pocus."

**Response:** "Everybody focus."

**Call:** "All right, stop."

**Response:** "Collaborate and listen."

**Call:** "Flat tire."

**Response:** "Sssssssshhhhhhhh."

**Call:** "Salami."

**Response:** "On rye."

### For younger children:

**Call:** "Peanut butter."

**Response:** "Jelly."

**Call:** "Marco."

**Response:** "Polo."

**Call:** "Chicka chicka."

**Response:** "Boom boom."

**Call:** "Hands on top."

(hands on top of head)

**Response:** "Talking stops."

(kids' hands on their heads)