Using a soft toy as a tool to introduce listening and attention activities to young children in the Early Years Foundation Stage
Introducing Lola (or similar small soft toy)

• Ideally, seat the children in a circle
• Present Lola in a box or basket wrapped in an attractive piece of material
• Explain that Lola is very friendly, but very shy – so everyone needs to be quiet so as not to frighten her
• Get the children to pass her gently around the circle, saying hello quietly
• Encourage them to whisper their names in her ear
• Use Lola to introduce attention and listening activities on a regular basis to the group
Establish the ‘rules’

A good listener …

• Tries to keep still
• Tries to stay quiet
• Looks at the speaker
• Tries to remember what the speaker has said
Starting the activities

• Seat the children in a circle
• Encourage them to let you know they are ready to listen by using the agreed signal
  
  *For example:*
  
  *Legs crossed, looking, hands in lap*

• Remind them of the ‘rules’
• Pass Lola around the circle in silence
• Carry out a listening/attention activity
  
  *(appropriate to the developmental level of the children)*