



Deep Listening

Being **fully** open to what *the other* is bringing to the conversation involves listening deeply to what they are proposing, arguing or suggesting. The Spiritual Capability of deep listening involves what Pope Francis describes as “listening is more than simply hearing. It is a mutual listening in which everyone has something to learn.” Australia’s first peoples practice deep listening as an almost spiritual skill, based on respect. Sometimes called ‘dadirri’, deep listening is inner, quiet, still awareness and waiting. Deep listening describes the processes of deep and respectful listening to build community—a way of encouraging people to explore and learn from each other’s story, culture, knowledge and understanding. See: [Creative Spirits/Deep Listening](#).

This Spiritual Capability may involve:

- Being open to receive from *the other/s*
- Welcoming whatever is said
- Observing spoken and unspoken cues
- Not being afraid of difference
- Welcoming silence
- Entering into a new awareness
- Being open and attuned.

Examples of educators promoting this capability could be when they:

- Provide time for reflection, both inside and outside the classroom
- Encourage students to observe and draw informed conclusions
- Provide time for journal writing
- Teach and model the skill of listening to understand, not necessarily respond
- Demonstrate pausing and modelling and what deep listening looks like.