



LEARNING TO LISTEN

Use the “I HEAR THAT” Cue

- Early on model pointing to your own ear to signal that you hear a noise or someone talking
- Show the child how to search for the sound source
- Encourage the child to begin pointing to his own ear to show he hears something
- This is important for sharing the language about sound
- Also this will be useful when the audiologist is completing hearing tests

LISTEN BEFORE LOOKING

- Encourage listening first
- Talk in an “auditory sandwich” way: Say it ...Show it.....Say it again”
- Check that the child is understanding spoken languagenot gestures
- Check if the child is depending on “lip reading”, watching your mouth when you talk

TALK the Talk for ACOUSTICS

- Use speech that is repetitive and rich in melody, expression and rhythm
- Talk at a regular volume- not too loud, not too quiet.
- Use acoustic highlighting techniques to enhance the audibility of speech
- Use lots of animation in your voice.
- Intonation increases both the fun of listening and the “acoustics” of speech sounds

TAKE LISTENING WALKS

- Explore sounds in the home, yard, playground, car etc
- When the child is playing by themselves encourage them to explore and figure out what is making that sound they are hearing.
- If loud sounds bother the child:
- help them understand the source.
- Show that it can be made quieter by turning it down or moving away from it.
- If specific sounds continue to bother the child, mention it to the audiologist.

TALK the TALK for VOCABULARY

- Language is CAUGHT not TAUGHT.
- Children learn by overhearing conversations.
- TALK about everything!
- Repeat, Repeat, Repeat. The more times heard the better.
- Use pauses: the brain of a child with a hearing loss needs time to “process”

Children learn to talk by hearing others speak and hearing themselves speak.

If your child is not wearing their HAs/CIs, they are not hearing enough to learn language easily.