

Research-Based Techniques for Helping Young Children with Hearing Loss

Information for Parents

Compiled by: Carrie Clark, CCC-SLP

www.SpeechAndLanguageKids.com/hearing-impairment

Taken from:

New York State Department of Health, Early Intervention Program; U.S. Department of Education

Clinical Practice Guideline: Report of the Recommendations. Hearing Loss, Assessment and Intervention for Young Children (Age 0-3 Years)

New York State Department of Health, Early Intervention Program. (2007).

Albany (NY): NYS Department of Health, Publication No. 4967, 354 pages.

Link: http://ncepmaps.org/_gl/_208/

- The earlier you start working with your child, the better. Get enrolled in speech therapy with a knowledgeable speech-language pathologist as soon as possible!
- Make sure your child's amplification (hearing aids or implants) is working every day. Ask your audiologist or speech-language pathologist show you how to do a listening check.
- If your child is not making progress with language development, the amplification should be re-evaluated.
- Provide a language-rich environment in your home. Surround him with written language, spoken language, and conversation. Turn off screens as much as possible to optimize the time to interact and use language with your child.
- Modify your child's environment to promote communication.
 - Give your child opportunities to converse with many different people, including adults and children
 - Ensure adequate lighting for reading speech and signs
 - Minimize background noise so that residual hearing can be used more effectively
 - Tell your child to focus visually on whoever is speaking
- Read to your child frequently (every day!!)
- Before you begin formal speech sound training, your child should be able to imitate (repeat after you) and should do so willingly. If your child is unable to do this, there are other ways the speech therapist can help him though.
- Recommendations for speech therapy (both formal and informal):
 - Keep it positive and upbeat
 - Target sounds/words that are meaningful to your child (like favorite things)
 - Work at your child's skill level, don't jump in with skills that are much too hard
 - Promote a feeling of success with vocal use. Praise your child for any verbal productions, even if they aren't correct.
- Try talking about things before your child can see them so he has a chance to practice his listening skills. For example, tell your child "We're going to have bacon for breakfast" before you pull the bacon out of the refrigerator.