



Hearing impairment - Children

Communication strategies

TO BETTER GUIDE YOU

The development of language and communication skills can be challenging for children with hearing loss.

Here are some simple, everyday strategies you can use to stimulate your child.

1. Put on your child's hearing aids as soon as they wake up.
2. Stay close to your child and position yourself at their eye level.
3. Create a calm environment. Eliminate background noise.
4. Get your child's attention and make eye contact before speaking, for example, by:
 - saying their name;
 - gently touching them;
 - doing something to attract their attention.
5. Make sure your face and mouth are visible so your child can see your lip movements and connect them with sounds.
6. Hold the object you are talking about (toy, diaper, bottle, etc.) close to your mouth to focus your child's attention on your face and lips.
7. In addition to spoken language, use visual communication methods such as natural gestures, Langue des signes du Québec (LSQ), American Sign Language (ASL), Langue française Parlée Complétée (LPC) or Cued Speech (CS).
8. Speak in a natural voice without shouting:
 - Enunciate words clearly, without exaggerating
 - Speak at a moderate speed (not too fast)
 - Repeat the same words often
 - Describe your actions and your child's actions
 - Name the objects that attract your child's attention
9. Avoid backlighting (your child should have their back to the window).
10. Talk to your child often. Be expressive, warm, and enthusiastic.

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