



Facts for Parents & Caregivers of Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

**Supporting Success
for Children with Hearing Loss**

www.successforkidswithhearingloss.com



FACT 1:



Inconsistent/Limited Hearing Device Wear Has Consequences

Hearing infants can't 'turn off' their ears. Their brains are being stimulated with auditory input 24/7. If a baby only wears hearing aids 4 hours a day, it will take six years for his brain to receive as much auditory stimulation as a hearing child does in one year.

FACT 2:



We Hear With Our Brain, Not With Our Ears

To learn to read, children's brains need to be exposed to 20,000 listening hours (5+ years). All of this input is needed before the brain makes the connection between the sounds and their corresponding letters of the alphabet. Without those 20,000 hours of listening, children are less ready to read at the same rate as other children their age, and they may never catch up.

FACT 3:



Hearing Devices Do Not 'Fix' Hearing Loss

Putting on a hearing device is not the same as putting on eyeglasses. Amplification does not equal comprehension. Hearing aids, implanted devices, and hearing assistive technology make sounds louder, but they don't instantly make language clear.

FACT 4:



Listening Fatigue is Real

Children with hearing loss must work harder to process sound, leading to exhaustion that impacts focus and behavior.

FACT 5:



Peers Matter

Providing opportunities for your child to communicate easily with hearing and non-hearing peers, whether with spoken language or signed, builds their social confidence and emotional well-being.



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FACT 6:



Language Must Be Accessible

Whether spoken, signed, or both, children need full-time exposure to accessible language models. Families are a child's first and most important teacher.

FACT 7:



Unilateral Hearing Loss IS a Big Deal

Children with unilateral hearing loss are at 10X the risk for school problems as those with two typically hearing ears.

FACT 8:



Electronic Media is not a Substitute for Language

Communication is a two-way street. Language is learned from meaningful interactions between the child and his family and caregivers. Media often encourages passive listening, which may not foster the same active engagement, questioning, clarifications, and scaffolding that live dialogue enables.

FACT 9:



Social Communication Competency is Important

Even when a child has age-appropriate vocabulary and syntax skills, she may not yet have learned how to use these skills in a socially appropriate manner for specific social purposes. Without mastery of these skills using complex language, children will encounter significant challenges with literacy, written communication, and abstract conversation topics.

FACT 10:



YOU Matter

You are your child's first and most important teacher(s). 'Research consistently confirms that parental involvement is one of the most reliable predictors of a child's developmental success, including language, social-emotional, and academic outcomes.'

Sources: Anderson, K.L.(2013). *Achieving Effective Hearing Aid Use in Early Childhood: Guidance for Families and Professionals of Children with Hearing Loss from Infancy to Preschool*. <https://successforkidswithhearingloss.com>
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