

The Developing Child with Unilateral Hearing Loss: ***FOSTERING LANGUAGE LEARNING***

Born and ready to grow! • Children's brains are ready to start to learn language as soon as they are born. • Picture your child's brain as an acre of rich soil that is read to grow an incredible garden. • A beautiful garden needs seeds planted, a plan for a variety of colors and types, it needs to be watered, tended and carefully cared for to be sure it is all growing well.	Your Child's 'Language Garden' • Your child's garden of language – this acre of rich soil – needs to be filled with blooms and thriving plants by the time he or she is 3 years old. A whole acre! • The more people who try to spread seeds and tend the garden will help. • Having good GARDENERS – people who really know how to grow plants – will help. Having many gardeners in the child's life will really help! 
Planting the Language Garden • Your child will 'catch' new language and concepts that he can hear throughout every day. Each chance for him to hear you talk about what he is interested in and what is going on around him is a chance to plant new seeds. • To grow a rich garden you need to work at it! Know that you are planting seeds and your daily effort will tend this garden. Your early intervention teacher can help you with a plan for growing words. 	Time to sprout! • Sometimes a child will seem to pick up a word immediately, other times it seems like all you will do is talk, talk, talk with no new words from your child. • Know that it takes time, especially for new seeds to sprout. Once your child has some words and concepts and sees that he can get what he wants from using words, the garden will grow more quickly and start to spread. It still needs many moments of daily care! You have a whole acre to fill! 
Language activities you can do every day to help your child's language grow:	

SUGGESTED FOR HOME VISIT 3