

The Developing Child with Unilateral Hearing Loss:

LISTENING FROM A DISTANCE

Rugged listening terrain So “rugged listening terrain” would be any situation in which listening is not easy, specifically:  DISTANCE & BACKGROUND NOISE	Every day listening with 2 ears  Hearing is a distance sense We monitor what is going on around us with our hearing. Think about all you hear right now – in the room you are in, sounds from other places in the building, sound from outside. 1. Two ears working together hear just a bit better than one ear working alone. 2. We turn our heads to use both ears to locate where sound is coming from.
Distance The concept of the listening bubble  Not in range, not listening  In range and listening Mommy has a cookie for you! Mommy has a cookie for you!	Language is caught, not taught! For language to be ‘caught’ it needs 1) be in the child’s listening bubble, 2) be of interest to the child, 3) interactive and meaningful if a child is going to learn new words and concepts. 
Scenario 1 – young child Mama is folding laundry on the bed while John crawls on the floor. Mama gives John 2 socks as she is folding. She talks about the pants, colors of the shirts, two socks and socks going on John’s feet.  After a bit John sees the cat and crawls away into the next room. Mama can still see him and she now talks about the cat. John may not hear every word clearly, but has many opportunities to catch language. 	Scenario 2 – young child Mama is folding laundry on the bed while John crawls on the floor. After a bit John sees the cat and crawls away into the next room. Mama sees him and tells him to leave the cat alone.  NO John did not have many opportunities to catch new language that describe things that interest him. He would have greater consequence if he missed any words due to hearing with only 1 ear.

SUGGESTED FOR HOME VISIT 2