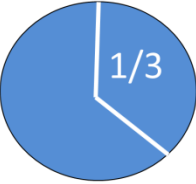


The Developing Child with Unilateral Hearing Loss: POTENTIAL IMPACT ON LANGUAGE LEARNING

Potential impact of hearing loss in one ear on language learning  One out of every three children with only one good hearing ear develop delays in the number of words they say by the time they are 15 – 18 months old. Not keeping a child's daily 'cup of language' full <u>will</u> have consequences! 	Language learning, every hour a child is awake, every day, everywhere. Babies learn language by hearing it around them every day. Parents don't 'teach' children to learn how to talk. Your child will learn language whenever you interact with him and as he sees you communicate with other people. Language is caught, not taught. 
What is incidental learning? With a unilateral hearing loss background noise and distance are barriers to children 'catching' all the language that occurs around them. Children learn much of what they know from over hearing other people talking or attaching a new word and concept together. Picture your child seeing a brown truck, hearing a knock on the door, and then seeing a package that is for them – suddenly 'truck' or 'UPS' or 'present' has real meaning! This is called incidental learning. 	Potential for many missed language opportunities over time • Picture a child learning language as a cup that family members fill up drop by drop, spoon by spoon, every day. • With every drop and spoonful a child has the potential to 'catch' new words. • EVERYDAY children with only one good hearing ear will miss part of the language that is said around them. • Children exposed to <u>many</u> words will be less affected by missing some
For language to be 'caught... Language needs to: 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. Your early intervention teacher will help you learn more about how you can easily do this during every day activities. 	Times during the day when you talk to your child: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.

SUGGESTED FOR HOME VISIT 3