

Strategies for Promoting Listening in Everyday Life

These strategies are similar to the ones used in therapy sessions, but it is important for families to carryover the techniques and listening practice at home throughout the day.

1. **Consistent wear** of your child's hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant(s) is important to help strengthen the necessary neural pathways for listening.
2. Use **parallel talk or self talk** to talk about what you are doing or what your child is doing to help saturate the environment with language. It is important for your child to receive ample language input throughout the day.
3. Provide ample **wait time**.
4. **Reduce background noise** as much as possible. More noise makes the listening task more difficult for the child.
5. Provide a **visual and/or auditory cue** before you speak to direct the child to encourage him or her to listen closely.
 - Example of visual cue: touching your ear
 - Example of auditory cue: say, "listen"
6. Use **acoustic highlighting** to emphasize key sounds in a word or parts of a phrase while speaking.
7. Draw your child's attention to **sounds in his or her environment and name** them.
 - For example: If you are taking a walk in the park or the community and see an airplane, you could say: "Look! I see an airplane in the sky. Ahhhh. It's an airplane."
8. Use **auditory closure** to give the child an opportunity to fill in the final word of a sentence or phrase
 - For example: While getting dressed in the morning, you could say, "We put on our socks, and now we need to put on our—?" The child could respond, "Shoes!" You could then say, "Yes! We put on our socks, and now we need to put on our shoes."
9. **Reading books** is always a great way to introduce new vocabulary or reinforce existing vocabulary and develop language skills.
10. Use a "One Up" strategy to **recast and expand** your child's utterances. When your child makes a comment, you can add one or two more words to the comment and say it back to him or her to model more complex language.