

Setting up for success: Tips for enhancing your child's auditory and visual access

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Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- * Children with hearing loss are all different
- * Two children with the same hearing loss may function very differently –
- * Cannot assume identical audiograms will mean similar abilities and performance

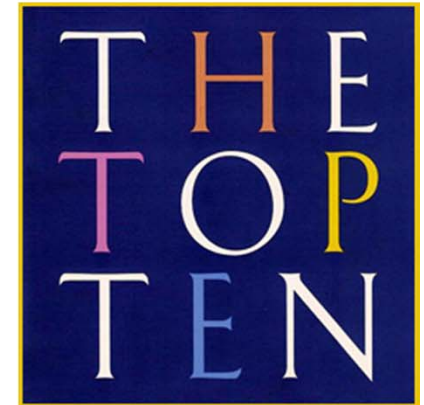


Johnson kids – Circa 1969

Session Objectives

- * Identify 5 strategies to enhance the visual access for a child with hearing loss
- * Recognize 5 considerations for improving auditory access for a child with hearing loss
- * List two uses of technology to increase the communication access for a child with hearing loss

Top Ten Ways to Improve Access for a Child with Hearing Loss



10

For auditory learning to occur the signal must be audible

- * Maximum audibility across the speech spectrum is crucial for auditory learning
 - * hearing aids fit and verified by a licensed (pediatric) audiologist
 - * routine hearing aid follow-up and cochlear implant mappings



Today: Hearing technology looks COOL!!



Technology options - FM

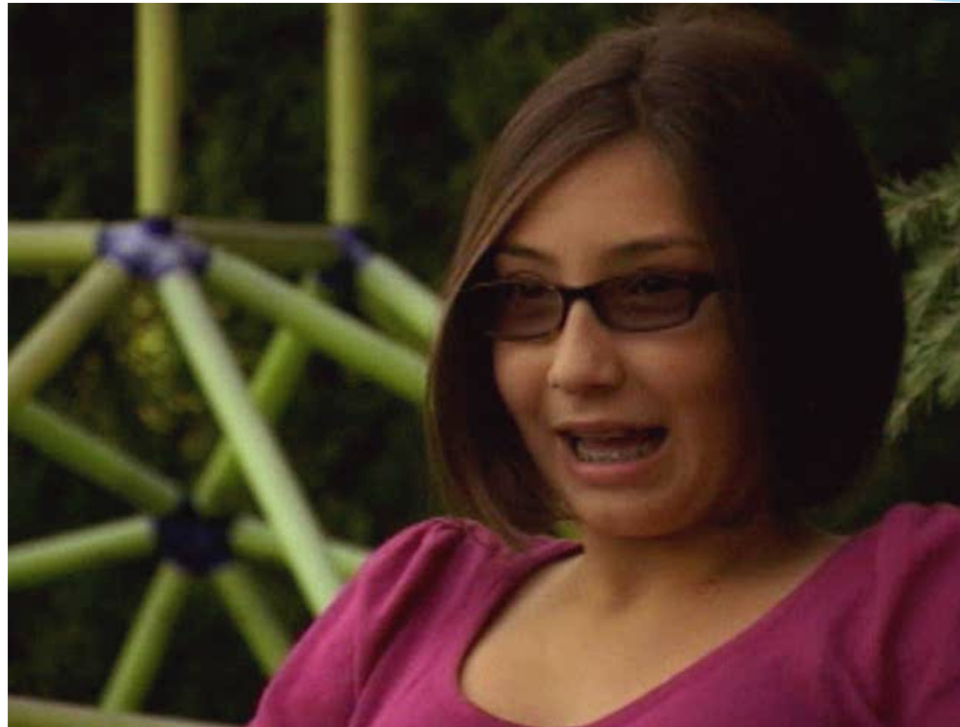


Technology - Connectivity



http://www.oticonusa.com/Oticon/Consumers/Pediatrics/Instructional_Videos.html

Connectivity – Giving kids access to being a “kid”



<http://www.oticonusa.com/Oticon/Consumers/Pediatrics/Products/Safari/Testimonials/connectivity.html>

Technology – Hearing aid compatible cell phones



“M” (Microphone) Rating

- * Since September 2005, cell phone companies have been required to provide several models of cell phones that are rated as being hearing aid compatible when used with hearing aids in the standard microphone setting (M3 or M4).

Thus, to use a cell phone while wearing hearing aids in the microphone ("M") mode, look for one that is rated M3 or M4.

(M4 is better.)

“T” (Telecoil) Rating:

- * Since September 18, 2006, cell phone companies have been required to provide several cell phones that are rated as being hearing aid compatible when used in t-coil mode (T3 or T4).

Therefore, to use a cell phone while wearing hearing aids in t-coil ("T") mode, look for a phone that is rated T3 or T4.

(T4 is better.)

www.phonescoop.com

- * On the Phone Scoop website click on "Phone Finder" (on the left), then click on "Show all options" (4th paragraph down), then scroll almost exactly half way down the page to the heading "Hearing Aid Compatible."
- * Click on the check-box beside the rating you want, then scroll to the bottom and click "Search." I'd suggest you check the last box (M4/T4) to get a list of the most hearing-aid compatible phones.
- * This search will, at the present time, turn up a good number of phones that have an M4/T4 rating.

Wireless Telecommunications

AT&T MOBILITY

www.wireless.att.com

Disability / Accessibility Page

<http://www.wireless.att.com/learn/articles-resources/disability-resources/disability-resources.jsp>

SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION

http://www.sprint.com/index_p.html?state=true&ECID=SEM:Google:R:Sprint:Local:Geo:Targeted

Disability / Accessibility Page

<http://www.sprint.com/landings/accessibility/hearing.html>

VERIZON WIRELESS

<http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/index.html>

Disability / Accessibility Page

<http://aboutus.vzw.com/accessibility/index.html>

Technology – Face to Face chat



Skype

Why just talk when you can see each other face-to-face?

iPhone 4 and iPhone 4S

FaceTime

Closed Captioning

iPhone supports the playback of open captions, closed captions, and subtitling.

iMessage

Sending messages with iMessage is even better than texting. Because it's unlimited.*

<http://www.apple.com/accessibility/iphone/hearing.html>

Technology – Captioned Phone calls



WebCapTel® – a free service that let's a child listen to what the caller is saying while they read captions (right on the computer screen) of anything they miss

Need is a telephone (any phone will work) and a computer connected to the internet then one can begin taking advantage of this free service

<http://www.sprintrelay.com/video/index.php>

CAPTIONED TELEPHONE RELAY SERVICES AND RESOURCES

* **CapTel^(R) Phones**
www.captionedtelephone.com

Federal Relay Services
www.federalcaptel.us

Free Caption Call
www.freecaptioncall.com

Hamilton Relay
www.hamiltoncaptel.com

* **PhoneCaption**
www.phonecaption.com

Sprint Relay
www.sprintcaptel.com

Ultratec
www.ultratec.com

Weitbrecht Communications (WCI)
www.weitbrecht.com

Technology – Video Relay Service

- * Allows deaf/HOH child to have phone conversation w/ hearing people
- * Uses a videophone w/ real-time video connection and an interpreter relays the conversation between two parties.



http://www.sorensonvrs.com/svrs/success_stories/christina

<http://www.zvrs.com/z-services>



Know how to trouble shoot technology



- * Check the batteries, replace if necessary
- * Check the connections (cables, tubing and case)
- * Listening check – connecting hearing aid to listening stethoscope and turn on
- * Hold hearing aid about 1 to 1.5 feet from your mouth and talk into the microphone
 - * Ling 6 (ah, ee, oo, s, sh, m), familiar phrases; at close range and at a distance.
 - * Listening stetheset (for hearing aids)
 - * Cochlear implants (proprietary device needed)
Your voice should sound clear, listen for static when you adjust volume/change programs, turn on/off

Do daily – and again during the day if it seems the child is not hearing you.



Reduce the Noise

- * When talking, try to avoid background noise.
 - * Turn off the television or any music
 - * close any open windows to muffle noise from traffic.
- * You can also move closer to your child to make your voice louder, or try to find somewhere quieter to talk.
- * Choose quiet toys when you want to interact with a child, or speak after the toys' sounds have stopped.



Face the child when you speak

- * If your child can see what you are saying it will be easier for them to hear what you are saying.
- * If your face is well lit, your child can easily see your facial expressions, and read your lips.



Visual cues

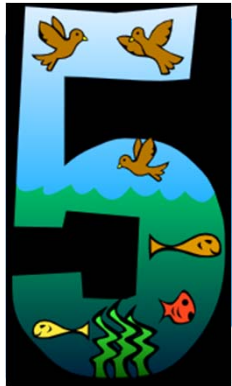


- * Call, wave or stomp to obtain attention before communicating
- * Get on the same eye level for extended conversations
- * Hold important conversations in bright, quiet and/or smaller spaces
- * Avoid standing in front of windows, light source or open doors
- * Avoid dark sunglasses and wide brim hats that reduce facial views
- * Refrain from putting hands near your mouth, looking down or turning away
- * Avoid leaning your face on your hand or sitting behind a newspaper while talking.



Use non-verbal communication

- * Picture games are also very useful when teaching your child about objects, concepts and language.
- * If you go for a walk or a drive, point out different things you see and describe them as you go by.
- * Facial expressions and body language can also be very important cues.
- * Use visual clues to help a child tune into important words – use actions and gestures (e.g. hands out, palms face up for “gone”), offer demonstrations (e.g., show a child how you stir sugar into tea), hold up objects or point to pictures to help a child focus on and understand the most important words. This will help block out other distractions



Be a good role model

- * Speak clearly and at a normal pace, and remember that there's no need to shout.
- * Simplify your language – helps a child tune in to your words:
 - Say Less: use shorter sentences
 - Stress: emphasize **key** words with your voice and intonation
 - Go Slow: speak at a slower pace
 - Show: use gestures, objects, pictures to emphasize key words
- * If your child has difficulty understanding you, try **rephrasing** the sentence rather than just repeating yourself.



Promote self-sufficiency early

- * When your child is talking to other people try to avoid taking on the role of interpreter or answering on his or her behalf.
- * Have the child learn how to ask for clarification
- * Teach the child when explaining things, to use short, clear sentences wherever possible.
- * Have the child learn to ask for the captions to be turned on

How can we promote self sufficiency and independence?

- * Teach the child to clean and care for their hearing aids
- * Teach the child how to change their batteries (after age 3) or to let you know when they hear the low battery beep.
- * Show the child how to charge their implant batteries
- * Show the child how to charge their FM system
- * Encourage your child to learn to wake themselves in the morning, and become familiar with assistive technology to promote independence in the home.



#3

Promote emergency preparedness

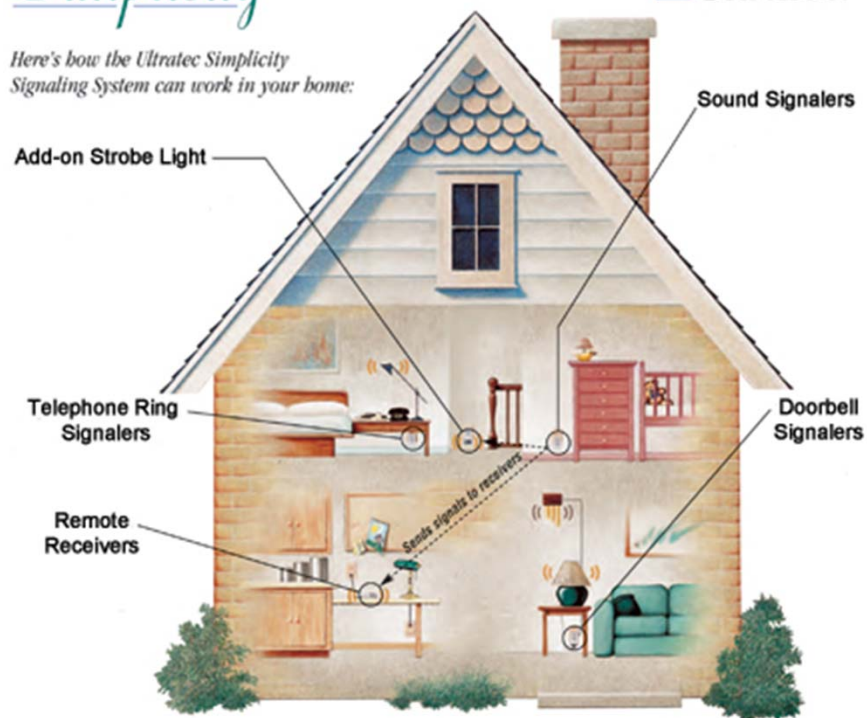
- * Have a clear and effective signal that will get the child's attention in an emergency
 - * Smoke detectors/strobe
 - * Whole house alerting systems
 - * Flashing
 - * Bed shakers
- * Hearing Service Dog



Simplicity

Here's how the Ultratec Simplicity Signaling System can work in your home:

Ultratec





Get connected with resources in your community



- * Beginnings
- * Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- * HITCH Up
- * Hands and Voices
- * Say What Club
- * Hearing Loss Association of America
- * National Association of the Deaf
- * American Society for Deaf Children
- * and more...



Top Ten Ways to Improve Access for a Child with Hearing Loss

- 10 For auditory learning to occur, signal must be audible
- 9 Know how to troubleshoot technology
- 8 Reduce background noise
- 7 Face the speaker and give good visual cues
- 6 Use non-verbal communication
- 5 Be a good role model
- 4 Promote self- sufficiency
- 3 Promote emergency preparedness
- 2 Get connected with resources in your community...and...



Celebrate their uniqueness



- * Embrace your child's uniqueness
- * Don't make their life about their hearing loss
- * Smile often
- * Praise them when they do something well
- * Pay attention to them when they want to share something with you, however small.
- * Accept them for who they are

Every child just wants to fit in and
find their place in the world.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmKnQjBf8wM&feature=player_detailpage#t=0s

Thank you for helping children with hearing loss fit in

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