
Building the Family Toolbox: A Deaf/Hard of Hearing Perspective: Part 3

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Agenda

- Brief share
- ELL families
- Tools and Strategies
 - Auditory
 - Sign language
 - Spoken language
- Continued Learning Resources

What's in your toolbox?



Filling Your Family Toolbox

What do you have?

What do you need?

What resources would be helpful to your family/team?

Working with ELL Families

- Many research studies have shown that children with hearing loss are capable of learning multiple languages simultaneously.
- Families should be encouraged to speak to their children in their most proficient language.
- Dual language learning is possible if the environment is conducive to maintaining both languages.

Tools and Strategies- Auditory Positioning

- Positioning/Distance
 - Yardstick length and on the same level
 - On the side with better hearing
 - “Speech bubble”
 - **Incidental learning**- 80% (or more) of language and vocabulary is learned incidentally

Tools and Strategies - Calling Attention to Sounds

“I Hear That!”

Listening games:

- Mom and Dad call out and/or make noises from different parts of the room
- What’s that sound?- show and label the sound
- Listening walks - environmental and neighborhood sounds

Minimize distracting background noises like loud TVs and video games.

Tools and Strategies- Child Directed Speech

- Used to be call “Motherese” or “Parentese”
- Calls attention to speech and makes it more interesting for the child
- Auditory features of speech are exaggerated and easier to comprehend
- Lots of repetition
- Introduces turn taking in conversation

Tools and Strategies- Read Aloud

- Auditory attention -naturally close positioning
- Auditory memory
- Book language
- Vocabulary development
- Language concepts
- Pre-literacy concepts

Tools and Strategies- Music and Song

(Also chants and rhymes)

- Absence/presence of sound
- Auditory attention/discrimination
- Intonational patterns
- Auditory memory
- Vocabulary
- Auditory timing

Provide varied and rich auditory experiences

Tools and Strategies- Acoustic Highlighting

- Making the target word or sound easier to hear
- You can highlight in a variety of ways: volume, distance, timing
- Vowels carry the most energy, but consonants carry the meaning
- Example: Say the word, "house"

Tools and Strategies- Auditory Sandwich

Hear it → See it → Hear it again

Tools and Strategies- Wait Time

OWL- Observe, Wait, and Listen



Tools and Strategies - Learning to Listen Sounds

Sounds that go with toys and objects- Onomatopoeias

- For example, “moo” for a cow, “beep” for a horn, “aaah” for an airplane
- Developmentally appropriate play for early sound development
- Work on auditory perception and discrimination
- Make a “listening box” with objects that correspond to a variety of different sound types.
 - Start with a small set and expand as the child learns more L to L sounds
 - Ling/LMH sound objects are a good place to start.



LING - MADELL - HEWITT
SPEECH PERCEPTION
10 SOUND TEST

Tools and Strategies- Narration, Modeling, & Expansion

Self Talk and Parallel Talk

Establish joint attention first

Use during daily routines and activities

The Sign Language/Spoken Language Connection

“Learning a Sign Language Does Not Hinder Acquisition of a Spoken Language”

Research article -April, 2025 - Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10187967/>

Additional Resources

[ASL STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT](#): ASL developmental milestones ages 3 months-9 years

[Communication Milestones: Age Ranges](#): American Speech and Hearing Association- Speech/Language milestones ages birth to 5 years. Also has suggestions for what parents can do to help at each age level

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention National Conference 2025

- Link: <https://ehdiconference.org>
- Pittsburgh, PA March 9-12, 2025
- Parent event Sunday night March 9th

Questions?

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