

~Attending and Listening~ Babies with a Unilateral loss

Babies who have **one good listening ear**, have hearing to develop good listening and language skills

From the start hearing babies will be attending to voice as well as your touch and warmth as you care for them.

A baby with just one working ear will do this too but you need to be more conscious about talking and holding Baby's attention when you talk with him. Help his awareness of sound and the pleasure of listening. Make sure his good ear is open to sound. Think about situations when his good ear is covered like sleeping, feeding, changing nappies, in the buggy, car seat or pram.

Ideas to develop attending and listening

- ❖ Face to face games and interaction
- ❖ Use voice and touch to gain attention
- ❖ Make your voice fun to listen to
- ❖ Babies like baby talk
- ❖ Try singing when you feed, change, bath or play with Baby
- ❖ Repetitive swinging, rocking, moving limbs with songs and rhymes while
- ❖ Copy Baby's initiatives: eye gaze, burps, giggles, responses to sound or active play
- ❖ Consider background acoustics: manage the environment so that Baby has a chance to hear what you are saying, good ear facing you and away from background noise
- ❖ Talk and play close to baby's good ear so that he can easily pick up your voice. The closer you are the louder your voice will be- so you won't have to shout
- ❖ Talk, sing during daily routines
- ❖ Use calm strokes with calm voice; bouncy movements with lively voice
- ❖ Lots of eye contact that indicates "I'm interested in you"

- ❖ Make sure Baby knows you are talking to him
- ❖ Smiles show you are enjoying it too
- ❖ React if Baby reacts to a sound
- ❖ Call his name and once he has located you, smile and talk
- ❖ Songs and counting rhymes, action rhymes help baby to be involved
- ❖ Chat through daily activities such as changing, dressing, feeding, washing Baby. The more repetitive you are the more it all makes sense
- ❖ Play with sound making toys. But don't let sound making toys mask out your voice. Pause when you are about to say something so baby is ready to listen
- ❖ Always be alert to sounds around and draw baby's attention to them
- ❖ Talk about what you are doing and react to baby's reactions
- ❖ Talk about what baby is attending to
- ❖ Share simple books
- ❖ Play tickle games
- ❖ Repetitive peek-a-boo games
- ❖ Hiding finding games
- ❖ Encourage turn taking. Offer turns in your conversation- waiting for Baby to take a turn. Give Baby plenty of time to reply
- ❖ Anticipation games - so Baby learns to expect something is going to happen (a tickle, a cuddle, a boo)
- ❖ Sharing books, help Baby to anticipate and wait for the sound and action

Have fun and enjoy your baby and he will see that communication is fun!

Attending comes before listening
Listening comes before talking



Information about the SENSS local offer is available at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/services-support-children-learning>

Further strategies and resources available at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/early-years-sen-toolkit>