

Sensory Support Service: Hearing Impairment team
Early Years: 0-4 years

Hints and tips to support your child's communication

The most important thing that you can do is to make communication fun and meaningful for your child and things that may help are:

- Making sure your child is wearing their hearing aids/processors, if these have been prescribed. Having the TV or radio off makes listening easier.
- Using simple short sentences, key words/phrases/ signs (if using), around all their daily routines e.g.) washing, getting dressed, eating, playing. Repeating words and phrases many times.
- Getting your child's attention and eye contact – saying their name, holding up a toy
- Sharing simple books, singing rhymes and songs, symbolic sounds for toys if your child is very young, (e.g. brmm brmm, quack quack) as these sounds are easier to hear. Using a 'sing song' voice helps.
- If they are older, giving your child a reason to communicate with you e.g.) they have to ask if they want a snack as they can't open the cupboard, giving them a choice between two things...usually food
- Surround them with lots of language for what they are doing/ where they are going/ what they can see
- Lots of fun, simple games which you all enjoy

You know your child best and what works for them!!

These are also few links to activities that you might find useful

National Deaf Childrens Society

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/>

Developing Communication

0 – 2yrs

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/language-and-communication/supporting-your-childs-learning/developing-language-and-communication-in-0-2s/>

3 – 4yrs

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/education-and-learning/early-years/learning-at-home-with-3-4-year-olds/>

Playtime ideas

https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/parenting-and-family-life/parenting-a-deaf-child/playtime-tips-and-ideas/?qclid=EAlaIQobChMI69CeoZjC6AIVBbTtCh2HTQDnEAAYASAAEgLuHPD_BwE

Apps

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/products-and-technology/apps-with-a-deaf-angle/types-of-apps/early-skills/>

Advanced Bionics

<https://advancedbionics.com/com/en/portals/pvc-en.html>



[AB Listening Adventures](#) is an engaging app providing children with a fun way to practice listening for words in sentences. Designed for caregivers or therapists to guide the development of listening and language skills in children with hearing loss ages 4 to 10, the app features:

- Six different story-based games
- Focus on listening for multiple elements, plurals, pronouns, or minimal pairs
- More than 100 sets of words
- Fun sound effects and character voices
- Many opportunities for teaching vocabulary and sentence structure

Available for iPad. <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ab-listening-adventures/id898695069>



[VocAB Scenes](#) is a colourful, entertaining app designed to help children with hearing loss ages 4 to 10 learn common vocabulary and question forms through listening with caregiver or therapist guidance. The app features:

- Six different scenes (outside water fun, beach, pet store, swimming pool, camping, and winter fun)
- 12 different drag and drop items for each scene
 - Three different games for each scene to promote listening and language development

Available for iPad®. <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ab-scenes/id905143070>

Storytime

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/curations/storytime-stories> (including signed stories)

Rhyme time

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWirdnSDsV4>

Letters and Sounds

Free resources to help support the DfES Letters and Sounds phonics programme

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

Listening:

The Elizabeth Foundation have put a free online learning programme called 'Let's Listen and Talk' for children aged 0 – 5. Along with information, the programme provides hundreds of useful games and activities that support listening and talking.

<https://letslistenandtalk.org/about/how-to-join/>

The Listening Room – Phonak

<https://thelisteningroom.com/>

Topmarks: Range of educational resources

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?AgeGroup=1>

Twinkl: Range of activities and sheets to use – all free to download

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>

If you are supporting your child's communication with sign language, these links may be helpful.

BSL weblinks:

BritishSignLanguage.com (Video clips of BSL)

<https://www.britishsignlanguage.com/>

Deaf Books

<http://www.deafbooks.co.uk/>

ITV Signed Stories

<https://www.signedstories.com/apps/british-sign-language>

NDCS (Family Sign Language)

SignStation (Learning BSL)

<http://www.signstation.org/>

This is a very simple, unthreatening resource to help young children understand about Coronavirus

<https://www.mindheart.co/descargables>

Technology checks:

How to check your child's ability to detect/copy the ling sounds

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4kjlOVCivg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ot1zRYY9Lbg>

Ling sound picture cards

<https://assets.stg.cochlear.com/ffe1b484-ea2e-44f4-9dcf-a59cafed37cb/fun3445-ling-cards-%20%20%20activity.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>