



## Sensory Impairment Service:

# Hints and Tips to Support Your Child's Communication in the Early Years (0–4 Years)

### How To Make Communication Fun and Meaningful for Your Child:

- Make sure your child is wearing their hearing aids/processors (if they've been prescribed). Having the TV or radio off makes listening easier.
- Use short sentences with keywords, phrases, or signs (if using) that pertain to their daily routines. For example, washing, getting dressed, eating, playing, etc. Repeat words and phrases many times.
- Get your child's attention and eye contact by saying their name or holding up a toy.
- Share simple books.
- Sing rhymes and songs.
- If your child is very young, use symbolic sounds for toys. For example, "brmm-brmm" or "quack-quack" because those sounds are easier to hear. Using a 'sing song' voice helps.
- If your child is older, give them a reason to communicate with you. For example, they have to ask if they want a snack because they can't open the cupboard. Or give them a choice between two things (usually food).
- Surround your child with lots of language for what they are doing, where they are going, and what they can see.
- Give your child plenty of fun, simple games that you can all enjoy. You know your child best and what works for them.

### Useful Links:

- The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) - [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)
- **NDCS:** Supporting Communication with Deaf Babies and Toddlers - <http://ow.ly/a0lw50K9K5y>
- **Advanced Bionics - The BabyBeats™ app** stimulates your baby's senses through musical activities. It can be beneficial for children with a range of hearing devices. Using the app with a

vibrating speaker can make it more relevant for profoundly deaf children. Available for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#).

- **Advanced Bionics - The VocAB Scenes app** is designed to help children with hearing loss (aged 4 to 10). It teaches them common vocabulary and question forms through listening (with caregiver or therapist guidance). Available for [iPad](#).
- **Storyline Online**® streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations. Available via <https://storylineonline.net/> or the [App Store](#).
- **Stories from CBeebies Storytime** - <http://ow.ly/nK9550K9QIZ>
- **Super Simple Songs (Kids' Songs)** - <https://www.youtube.com/c/supersimplesongs>
- **Letters and Sounds** - <https://letters-and-sounds.com/>
- **The Elizabeth Foundation: Let's Listen and Talk** - <https://letslistenandtalk.org/>  
A learning programme for children aged 0-5. Along with information, the programme provides hundreds of useful games and activities that support listening and talking.
- **Advanced Bionics and Phonak: The Listening Room** - <https://thelisteningroom.com/>
- **Topmarks:** A range of educational resources - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>
- **Twinkl:** a range of activities and sheets – <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/parents>

### BSL Links:

- **BSL Resources** - <https://www.britishsignlanguage.com/>
- **Let's Sign BSL at DeafBooks** - <https://letssign.co.uk/>
- **ITV Signed Stories in BSL** - <http://ow.ly/LIIM50KayWT>
- **NDCS Family Sign Language** - <http://ow.ly/8uut50Kazac>
- **SignStation** - <https://signstation.org/>
- **MED-EL: Rehab At Home: Ling Six Sound Test** - <https://youtu.be/A4kjlOVCivg>
- **CID Quick Tips: How to Conduct the Ling Sound Test** - <https://youtu.be/Ot1zRYY9Lbg>

### Northamptonshire Sensory Impairment Service (SIS)

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