



Sensory Impairment Service:

Tips for Parents - Learning at Home with a Child with a Hearing Impairment

- **Daily Checks:** Together, carry out daily maintenance checks of their equipment (Hearing aids, CI processors, BAHAs). Practice putting their equipment on/off with the help of a mirror.
- **Environment:** Create a quiet, distraction-free space in the house for when they are doing focused work. Turn the radio and TV off for this period of time.
- **Instructions:** Read the instructions for equipment together. Are there any new words that need to be explored?
- **New Vocabulary:** Your child may like to keep a log of any new words they have discovered in their work with a picture or image to help them remember what it means.
- **Comprehension:** Before they start an activity, check they understand what is being asked of them. Use open questions. Get them to explain to you what they have to do.
- **Evaluate:** At the end of the activity, ask them what they have learned, remembered, enjoyed, and found tricky.
- **Rest Breaks:** Short, varied, and frequent activities are better than fewer and longer breaks. Take rest breaks between activities.
- **Expressive Skills:** Give your child opportunities for conversation to help develop their language and learn new words and phrases. For example, conduct pretend interviews, put on plays, roleplay as shopkeeper and customer, etc.
- **Reading:** Read with your child and encourage them to read a wide range of texts (non-fiction, fiction, magazines, recipes, and comics). Ask them questions about the texts as you go along.
- **Receptive Skills:** Having opportunities to listen and practice auditory skills and follow instructions through fun activities.

- **Hands-On:** Create opportunities to learn with creative play and hands-on activities. For example, baking, Lego, Play-Doh, painting, pretend shopping, etc.
- **Writing:** Get them to create their own diaries, stories, and plays. Then let them read them to the family or video themselves.

This is not an exhaustive list, so please get in touch with your Qualified Teacher of the Deaf (QToD) for further advice if needed.

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