



General Principles of Auditory Development

Skill Being Taught: Understanding auditory development - How children learn to understand and use spoken language.

Facts

1. The sense of hearing makes it possible for infants to learn language. They hear the sounds of language. They store sounds in memory. They attach meaning to sounds and learn to understand words.
2. Infants with normal hearing usually understand the sounds of language and many words before the age of one. They begin to practice sounds in the first few months of life and to say words around their first birthday.
3. After receiving a cochlear implant, most children with hearing loss go through the same stages of listening and making sounds as infants with normal hearing. They must learn to hear the sounds of language before they can understand words and learn to talk.
4. Most opportunities of learning to listen with a cochlear implant take place at home during daily routines. Language is learned by hearing words spoken over and over again during these routines.

What outcomes do we want?

The goal is to increase your child's understanding of language through daily routines with many different people.

What do we need to do?

Step #1: Get your child's attention by saying her name or by bringing her hand to your face so she can feel that you are talking.

Step #2: During daily routines speak to your child with your mouth close to the cochlear implant. Use single words and short phrases to talk about what she is hearing, seeing, touching, doing, and feeling. Talk about what is happening such as preparing food, getting dressed, or playing a game. Repeat words once or twice to make an "auditory impression." Use the same words and phrases each time a specific routine takes place.