

MAPPING THE LISTENING & SPEAKING BRAIN FOR LEARNING

- TIPS FROM THE PROFESSIONALS

WARNING SIGNS - WHEN TO CONSULT AN AUDIOLOGIST

1. No more reflex. Doesn't quiet to your voice. Doesn't turn to sound.
2. Any discharge or pain in the ears, including constant tugging or complaints of discomfort.
3. Delayed Speech or Language Milestones (babbling from 6 months; TURN TAKING, First word at 12 months; connecting words at 2 years; words becoming more recognisable to others)
4. Doesn't respond to speech unless you are very close or in front of the child.
5. Cannot attend, focus and concentrate, particularly in noisy places.
6. Turns up the volume of the TV, radio (to a level that feels unusually loud).
7. Relies very heavily on visual information.
8. Battles to follow instructions, particularly when there is more than one.
9. Cannot copy what you say, EXACTLY (age appropriate sentence length).
10. Isn't showing pre-literacy skills (joining sounds together, separating them, playing sound games: Simon says; Eye-Spy) or is battling with early reading.

Natalie Buttress - Audiologist

HOW CAN YOU HELP A CHILD WITH LISTENING, LANGUAGE & LITERACY?

1. Reduce background noise in the home.
2. Turn TV / radio off when you are not actively listening to them.
3. Give your child time to process. Use auditory hooks. Speak once. Wait. "What did you hear?"
4. "Language is the single biggest predictor of academic success." Louis Rossetti, 2001. So intervene early.
5. Observe. Wait. Listen. Comment. Don't test.
6. Tell them when they don't know.
7. Use technology wisely.
8. Encourage play!
9. Read to your children daily.
10. Don't stop until their reading is as good as their language. Introduce audio books at a young age. Coach them how to listen.

Carol Mestern - Speech & Language Therapist

HOW CAN YOU AID LISTENING IN THE CLASSROOM?

1. Use a clear natural voice. No shouting.
2. Gain the listener's attention before speaking - use auditory hooks.
3. Stand still. Don't walk around while talking.
4. Only one person speaking at a time.
5. Avoid workstation / group work.
6. Reduce background noise.
7. Repeat questions other learners ask before answering them.
8. Pre-teaching is more effective than revision. So provide notes the previous day.
9. Write down homework and announcements.
10. Don't talk while facing the board.

Carol Mestern - Speech & Language Therapist

WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN WITH SENSORY PROCESSING

1. Routines and predictability
2. Visual schedules
3. Slow things down
4. Movement breaks
5. Sensory breaks
6. Crunchy foods
7. Identify triggers
8. Control what you can
9. Identify tantrum vs meltdown
10. Advocate for your child

Romy Kruger - Occupational Therapist (Sensory Integration)

