

## **~Attending and Listening~ Babies with Hearing Aids**

To listen we need **hearing aids on and working** all the time.  
To want to listen we need something worth listening to in an environment we can hear in.

From the start hearing babies will be attending to voice as well as your touch and warmth as you care for them.

Babies with hearing loss do this too, but you need to be more conscious about talking and holding their attention when you talk with them. Help their awareness of sound and the pleasure of listening by developing their attending and listening.

Ideas to develop attending and listening

- ❖ Face to face games and interaction
- ❖ Use voice and touch to gain attention
- ❖ Use calm strokes with calm voice and bouncy movements with a lively voice
- ❖ Babies like baby talk, make sure he knows you are talking to him and about what your baby is attending to
- ❖ Lots of eye contact that indicates “I’m interested in you”
- ❖ Smiles show you are enjoying it too
- ❖ React if Baby reacts to a sound
- ❖ Try singing when you feed, change, bath or play with Baby
- ❖ Use repetitive swinging, rocking, moving limbs with songs and rhymes while doing daily activities
- ❖ Copy Baby’s initiatives, their eye gaze, burps, giggles, and responses to sound or active play
- ❖ Consider background acoustics by managing the environment so that baby has a chance to hear what you are saying
- ❖ Talk and play close to Baby so that his hearing aids can pick up your voice. The closer you are the louder your voice will be, so you won’t have to shout

- ❖ Even when hearing aids are off (bath time) stay close, talk and be lively
- ❖ Play with sound making toys, but don't let the sound mask your voice. Pause when you are about to say something so Baby is ready to listen
- ❖ Always be alert to sounds around and draw Baby's attention to them
- ❖ Talk about what you are doing and react to your baby's reactions
- ❖ Play tickle, peek-a-boo, hiding and finding games and participation games
- ❖ Encourage turn taking. Offer turns in your conversation- waiting for Baby to take a turn. Give Baby plenty of time to reply
- ❖ Action rhymes help baby to be involved. Use routine songs; counting games; things you say and activities you do as you change, dress, feed and wash your baby. The more repetitive you are, the more it all makes sense
- ❖ Anticipation games - so baby learns to expect something is going to happen (a tickle, a cuddle, a boo)
- ❖ By sharing books– you will be sharing the same focus and so it is clear about what you are saying. Continued sharing will allow the same repetitive language to be used, add your own ideas and repetitions to the book. Help your child to anticipate and wait for the sound and action. Let them participate in the expected action

Have fun and enjoy Baby and he will see that communication is fun.

Attending comes before listening  
Listening comes before talking



Information about the SENSS local offer is available at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/services-support-children-learning>

Further strategies and resources available at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/early-years-sen-toolkit>