

Getting Started...

A few ideas for developing your baby's listening and early communication skills.

- Ensure your baby is wearing his/her hearing aids consistently throughout the day.
- Reduce background noise to make listening easier. For example, turn off the T.V if you are not watching it.
- Sit close to your baby when talking and playing with them and use lots of repetition, expression and rhythm in your voice.
- Cue your baby to 'listen' (touch your ear and say "listen") to rattles, instruments, the dog barking, the phone ringing etc.
- Follow your child's lead, talk about what they are looking at or doing.
- Learn to wait and allow your baby time to respond with an expression, action or vocalisation.
- Respond to your baby's vocalisations to encourage them to continue communicating, for example repeating their vocalisation or rewarding with attention.
- Play lots of turn taking games eg. Rolling a ball, peek-a-boo or push and go cars.
- Introduce your baby to symbolic sounds (animal and vehicle noises associated with the appropriate toy).
- Sing, sing, sing!



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