

“What It Takes”

For children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing
to develop spoken language through listening

Your child who is deaf or hard-of-hearing CAN learn to talk if the following things happen:

1. Pursuit of the best amplification

You will make frequent trips to the audiologist. If your child is to develop spoken language through listening, then we must do all that we can to make sure that your child has as much access as possible to his/her residual hearing. We will need to know as much as we can about your child's hearing levels with and without hearing aids or cochlear implant, watch carefully for any changes in those levels, and make new earmolds. When hearing aids or cochlear implant equipment need repair, it must be done quickly.

2. Attend weekly parent participation sessions

Your child's therapist will teach and practice with you how to carry out at home the goals on your child's IFSP or IEP in parent participation sessions, which last about an hour.

3. Daily individual play sessions with your child in a quiet environment

You will need to play with your child and “work” on the goals you have learned during your parent participation sessions. Your play session should last a total of at least one hour a day in a room where there is no background noise (i.e. loud air conditioner, other children, television, radio, etc.). The hour can be broken up into different segments to accommodate your child's attention span, schedule, etc.

4. Embellishing the auditory elements of normal caregiving and play activities

For 3-4 hours a day (total time), you will need to use techniques learned and practiced in the weekly parent participation sessions during normal activities such as making the bed, cooking dinner, cleaning the house, etc. in order to make the most of every language-learning opportunity.

5. Enroll your child in an inclusive setting with typically developing hearing peers

This is worked out when you and your child's therapist have determined your child will have success in this environment.

6. Parenting with consistent behavior management

Your child's therapist will give you materials to read and audiotapes to listen to in order to help you with issues such as discipline, positive parenting, etc. You will also have a chance to work through *real*/live behavior management situations during your sessions together.