



Setting Language in Motion: Family Supports and Early Intervention for Babies Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Tips for Interacting with a Baby Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing

Below is a summary of ideas to guide interaction to enhance language growth for babies who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Get in the child's line of vision and make eye contact before beginning communication interactions.



Gain the child's attention by either waiting until the child looks or by gently touching on the arm or shoulder or waving in the direction of the child's gaze.



When talking with the child, include visual supports such as natural gestures, pointing, miming, and demonstration.



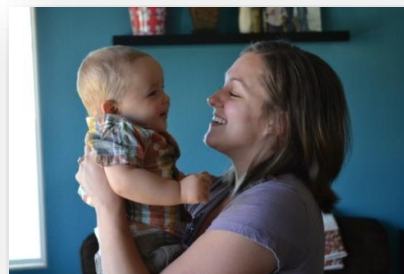
MODULE SIX Promoting Communication in the Home

Denise Fournier Eng, MA, CCC-SLP
Boston Children's Hospital
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

Animate your facial expressions to match the sound patterns of your voice.



Respond to the child's voice, sounds, and laughter by changing your facial expressions or by imitating the child's expressions.



Imitate the child's facial expressions, vocalizations, and gestures; let the child respond and then imitate his or her expressions again.



When the child wakes up in the morning or from a nap, let him or her know you are coming by turning on the hall lights as you approach and walking heavier to provide vibrational feedback. When you are entering the room, turn on a soft light.



Make eye contact with the child and lightly touch him or her before picking the child up so he or she can anticipate the action.



When changing a diaper, show the child the diaper to let him or her know what is going to happen next. Do the same for a bath, changing clothes, meal time, etc.



Consider using a stroller that lets the child face you so you can interact and connect visually.



Look for toys that have both sound and visual effects (e.g., flashing lights along with songs).



For Additional Resources

Please refer to the Module 6 video for more tips and information as well as for additional resources. Also, visit our websites at www.bostonchildrenshospital.org/dhnp and <http://clerccenter.gallaudet.edu>.