



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

Tips for Language Modeling and Language Stimulation

Below is a summary of tips for encouraging language growth in babies who are deaf or hard of hearing.

- Model not only single words but also connected language, phrases, and sentences.
- Use language to share information. Describe everyday routines, what the child is doing during play, and where you are going.
- Take advantage of the interests of the child and provide language models for him or her. For example, if the child points to a ball, acknowledge the communicative attempt by pointing to the ball to affirm that you understand and saying something like, "That's a ball. Do you want the ball?"
- Label toys and objects in the child's environment. Combine the label or name with descriptive words, including action words (e.g., elephant, *big* elephant, the elephant *walks*).
- Use animated facial expressions to reflect what vocal patterns might otherwise convey.
- Move into the child's line of vision and establish eye contact before initiating any interaction.

MODULE SIX Promoting Communication in the Home

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

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>.

