

3. Things to remember when buying or borrowing resources or toys

- Good use of lights or sounds, make sure the sound or light doesn't go on for a long time – we don't want the child to lose interest.
- Not too many confusing sounds.
- Immediate response or reward when the child does something.
- Easy to hold or manoeuvre.
- Interesting things to feel and explore.
- Toys that give sounds a context for example farm animals, phone, cars, etc.

4. Where to find information and ideas

- National Deaf Children's Society (you have to register on the website but that is free)
www.ndcs.org.uk
Lots of publications including:
 - Supporting the Achievement of Deaf Children in the Early Years
 - Communicating with your deaf child
 - Parenting a deaf child
 - Understanding your child's hearing loss
- The Ear Foundation
www.earfoundation.org.uk

Ideas and activities to support a child with a hearing loss

For families and settings

1. Communicating with your child
2. Everyday sounds – practical activities to discover sounds
3. Things to remember when buying or borrowing resources or toys
4. Where to find information and ideas

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February 2013



City of Bradford
Metropolitan District Council



1. Communicating with your child

Your face:

- Make sure your child can see your face clearly – get down to their level so they don't have to strain to look up at you
- Ensure that light falls on your face so that they can see your facial expression and lip patterns—for example don't talk with your back to a window so your face is in shadow
- Speak naturally using facial expression and gesture – just as you would to a hearing child

Hearing aids: if your child wears a hearing aid remember that it works best up to a distance of 2 metres

Remember that hearing aids improve children's hearing but they have to learn to listen to make sense of what they hear - we can help them to do this.

Making the most of everyday routines:

There are things we do every day which provide a great opportunity to talk to your child for example:

- Getting dressed
- Changing a nappy
- Mealtimes
- Going to the park
- Going to the shops
- Bedtime

Talking to them in a natural way when doing these things helps them to learn new words; it also shows what fun communicating with others can be. If a child finds something enjoyable they are more likely to learn.

Quiet time: Spend 5-10 minutes playing with your child in a quiet, comfortable, safe environment. Here are some suggestions for what you can do:

- Share a book – talking about the pictures, following your child's interest
- Sing a nursery rhyme or song
- Play a game taking turns, matching pictures, rolling a ball, throwing dice
- Play 'ready, steady, go' games

You can do these 2 or 3 times a day and ask brothers, sisters grandparents and other family members to join in. Be as animated as possible and have fun! The best way for children to learn is through play.

2. Everyday sounds – practical activities to discover sounds

Listen to everyday sounds – knocking on the door, washing machine, telephone, car, vacuum cleaner.... Go on listening walks

Can your child point to where a sound is coming from?

Can they tell what makes different sounds?

Do they recognise different voices?

Make sounds – use things that you have in your home for example:

- banging on a saucepan,
- hitting a box with a stick,
- tapping pens together,
- dropping toys into water,
- shaking a rattle or keys,
- kicking a ball against a wall