

## Communication Tips and Strategies for Parents

### Communicating with your child with hearing loss

One of the most important factors in your child's development is you! Every single day there are enjoyable language learning opportunities, often already part of your daily routine. Your child will love communicating with you just like any other child. There are many things you can do at home that will help your child's communication skills. You may want to start writing a diary and jot down your own feelings as well as observations of your child's reactions to sounds. Ask your Hearing Care Professional for a Diary of Observations.

### Communication tips

Here are some tips to help communicate better with your child and to help improve their speech and language skills:

- Get your child's attention before you start speaking (e.g. say their name)
- Speak at a normal loudness, do not shout
- Speak at a normal rate, not too slowly or too fast
- Try to make sure your child can see your face clearly when you talk
- Let your child know when the topic has changed
- Try to keep background noise to a minimum - turn off the TV/radio when you want to communicate together
- Talk about what you are doing and describe what you see
- Enjoy playing and singing with your child
- Read stories together and describe the pictures
- If your child does not understand, repeat key words, or rephrase
- Be positive with your child's communication ability and provide plenty of praise
- Encourage your child to explain their hearing loss to others
- Above all, enjoy communicating together!

### Some useful websites

The John Tracy Clinic: Distance Education for parents of young children who are deaf and hard of hearing  
[www.jtc.org](http://www.jtc.org)

Hands and Voices: Supporting families and their children who are deaf or hard of hearing  
[www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org)

Beginnings: For parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing  
[www.beginningssvcs.com](http://www.beginningssvcs.com)