

The RIVER SCHOOL

Parent-Infant Program

SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF YOUR CHILD AND FAMILY

Audiology Corner

'Listening Check'

To make sure your child is hearing all the important speech sounds you can do a quick check called the Ling six sound test. Dr. Daniel Ling created this quick check using six sounds that represent the entire acoustic range of speech sounds. These sounds are ah, ee, oo, mm, shh, and ss. Talk to your SLP about ideas on how to make this a fun activity to do at home.

✕ Listening Development ✕

For children with hearing loss who are learning to listen using hearing aids, cochlear implants, or BAHAs (bone anchored hearing aids), it is important to understand the stages of listening that they will progress through. An understanding of these stages will allow parents to provide their children with opportunities to practice and develop their listening skills.

Stages of Listening

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5
Sound Awareness	Associate Meaning to Sound	Imitation and Expansion	Auditory Comprehension	Advanced Listening Skills

Description of Stages 1-3

Sound Awareness: Children demonstrate awareness by turning to environmental sounds and/or speech sounds.

* You can promote awareness by exposing your child to sounds such as running water, a closing door, jingling keys, etc. Present the sound, point to your ear, and say, "I heard that!" Present the sound again and see if your child responds to it. If so, point to your ear and say, "You heard that!"

Associate Meaning: Looking at or pointing to an object or picture upon hearing it labeled.

* Throughout the day, label objects and actions. Provide repetition and give your child opportunities to practice by presenting a sound and/or word. Watch to see if he/she looks at the object.

Imitation and Expansion: Imitating a word or sound and beginning to spontaneously use spoken language.

* Set up opportunities/provide wait time so that your child is encouraged to answer questions, make requests, or comment.

Take Home Tips

It is important for listening checks to be performed daily to ensure that your child has access to all sounds of speech. Here are some ways to perform a listening check for a child at the detection level.

Stacking Cups or Rings

Sit your child on your lap or across from you. Remove all of the rings or separate the cups. Distract him/her with a quiet toy (you can use one of the rings or cups) and then present one of the Ling sounds while covering your mouth.

Watch to see if your child turns to face you. When he/she makes eye contact, provide praise: "Good listening!" and put the ring 'on' or the cup 'in.' Continue this and make a note if your child does not respond to certain sounds.