

AUDITORY SKILL DEVELOPMENT



Did you know? All areas of your baby's growth go through different stages.

Your baby will learn to hold their head up before learning to sit up. The same is true with your baby's listening skills. They will learn these skills in a very predictable fashion.

DETECTION → DISCRIMINATION → IDENTIFICATION → COMPREHENSION

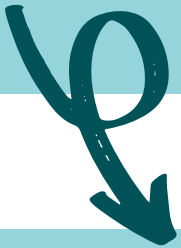
Your baby will progress through the stages of listening based on:

- Age
- The time it takes for your baby to receive hearing technology. The longer the time the longer it may take your baby to respond to sounds and voices.
- How well they can 'listen' with their current technology - maybe baby will need other technology such as a cochlear implant.
- Added findings may change your baby's progress. By working with your Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) provider, you will be able to understand the stages of listening that are happening with your baby.

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DETECTION: This is the very first skill baby will develop. If they hear a noise or a voice they may hold still, or they may turn their head, or they may move toward the sound.



DISCRIMINATION: Your baby will learn to find what different sounds they hear. “Was that mommy’s voice? Daddy’s voice?” or hear the sound of a musical toy vs. the sound of brother crying.



IDENTIFICATION: Your child will identify different sounds from others such as “ahhhh” vs “sssss”. Older children will be able to produce rhyming words.



COMPREHENSION: Your child will understand what words mean by:
Answering questions
Following directions
Talking with you

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WHAT CAN I DO?

- Work closely with your Listening and Spoken Language (LSL) provider to learn more about the stages of listening.
- Stay aware of new skills your child makes and what skills you will be expecting them to get next.
- If your baby is a new listener:
 - Wear hearing technology during all waking hours “Eyes open, ears on!”
 - Point out and label new sounds
 - Be watchful to your baby’s responses to sounds. Here are some examples:
 - Are they responding to something new? Be sure to talk about what they hear while they hear it!
 - Are they responding to your voice from across the room compared to yesterday?

