



sound**advice**

# Hearing And Speech – The Essential Link

December 5th, 2014



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“ Don't limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time “

~ Rabindranath Tagore (Indian philosopher)



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## ***Snapshot - Caroline***

- Profound, bilateral deafness since birth
- Hearing-aids by 18 months of age
- Speech therapy began immediately
- Educated to postgraduate level
- Twenty years in digital publishing and marketing



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## ***Speech Therapy Background***

- Therapist: Mrs Constance Devine (taught 1948-92)
- Started SLT clinic at National Childrens' Hospital
- Believed deaf children benefit most from:
  - Typical hearing environment
  - Living with families
  - Inclusive education



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## ***Education Plan From Detection, Onward***

- Parent involvement & education
- Constant hearing-aid wear; daily conversations
- Reading books on topics encountered during day
- IEP goals reviewed & extended continuously



## ***What Is Sound Advice?***

- Changing mindsets as a disruptive entity
- Website tracks technology for hearing & inclusion
- Seed funding 2007; eGovernment Award 2010
- Inclusive education & living for children & students



## ***Deafness in under-18s***

- Two babies are born deaf in Ireland each week
- 90% born to parents without experience of deafness
- 90% are mainstream-educated (3,300+ at present)
- Each deaf child is different
- 19% of hearing teens have hearing loss (earbuds)



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## ***The Role of Childcare Providers***

- Noticing developmental delays
- Structured play to develop language
- Talking to the child!





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## ***Language Teaching – Three Principles***

- Early words must be taught if parents absent
- Build spoken language into play
- Frequent one-to-one interaction



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## ***Non-Verbal Communication With Babies***

- Eye contact and visual interactions
- 'Mirroring' emotions; smile & nod
- Animated facial expressions (peek-a-boo)
- Taking turns and timing your reactions



## ***Communication Triangle ( 3 to 12 months )***

- What is baby looking at?
- 'Mirror' their facial expression, pointing, movements
- Item-and-word link
- The child may bring items for you to name



## ***Multi-Sensory Learning ( 0 to 12 months )***

- Baby visual stimulation cards
- Follow baby's attention and talk
- Changing table toys (name them)
- Teach letters & numbers early



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## ***Multi-Sensory Learning ( 12 to 24 months )***

- Picture and item matches
- Washcloth 'books'
- Mirrors and reflections; experience trips
- Letters in different materials



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## ***Visual Learning Ideas and Posters***

- Books, books and books
- Flash cards with correlating items
- Alphabet dominoes; opposites; shapes; colours
- Gingerbread men for maths and counting



## ***eBook: Teaching A Deaf Child To Hear And Speak***

- Practical, family guidance
- Device advice & education
- Spoken-language routines
- Coaching a child at home





**Thank you: Engage with Us!**



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