



Hear It Then Show It

Help your baby build connections and grow their brain for listening and spoken language. Providing meaningful listening and talking experiences every day can grow your baby's future.

GOOD TO KNOW

Babies do a lot of listening before they say their first words.

To help them become better listeners, especially with a hearing loss, you'll need to focus on listening skills. One way is to talk about the sound or object before your baby sees it. This helps your baby practice listening and using their ears to learn language. You may think your baby can't play yet but using baby toys to play with your baby very early can help them learn.

TRY

When you're playing with toys, reading, or sharing a routine, let your baby hear your words first before you show them the object.

For example, when sharing a toy:

You could say, "Listen! I have a **rattle**." Then shake the rattle out of your baby's sight. "I hear the **rattle**! Shake - shake - shake!" Now show the rattle by holding it in front of your baby and naming it again. "Here's your **rattle**."

See if your baby reaches for the rattle. If your baby makes a move, you can allow them to grasp the rattle or place the rattle in your baby's hand to hold. Keep playing since your baby is listening and watching. Help your baby shake the rattle and say, "Shake-shake, shake the rattle."

OBSERVE

Did your baby turn to your voice or respond to the sound before you showed them the object?

How quickly did your baby turn to the sound? Did your baby either stop or start moving their arms or legs when you made the sound? Did your baby smile or show you they liked the sound?



REMEMBER

Focusing on listening is an important way that you can help your baby learn to listen and talk. Hearing your voice or sounds, then showing the object is a way that you can help your baby practice listening every day. All of your talking will help them grow their brain for spoken language.

When you practice the "hearing then showing" strategy, you're helping your baby learn to listen. Now you can teach others in your family to "hear it then show it" too!