

# Chit Chat

## Conversation

### What you say



## Environment and Positioning

First things first! Having, the right hearing technology, on and working, in the best possible listening environment is the vital first step to helping your child to listen. **So... Check the equipment! Cut out the background noise!**

Spend time talking and playing with your child. Remember to take turns in talking and expect your child to use their listening, sit beside your child to give him or her the chance to listen fully in a natural, comfortable way.

Look at the following statements and rate how well you use these conversation strategies:

**I use a child friendly sing song voice:** a child friendly and lively way of speaking helps to catch and hold the interest of your child.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**Following baby's lead:** Parents watch to see what their baby looks at and comment on it. This gradually helps the baby to make sense of the stream of words, and eventually, to understand how this language relates to the world around them. I notice my baby's focus of attention and make comments about it.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I leave a gap at the end:** pausing before saying the last word in a familiar phrase and looking encouragingly gives your child the chance to complete the phrase e.g. put on you socks and... shoes!

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I use learning to listen sounds, words and phrases:** these help your child's listening brain to 'wake up', they sound interesting and very different from each other so children start to recognise and remember what has been said...

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I talk about what is going on:** your child may not know the words that go with everyday objects and activities, so have conversations about what's happening and about things you are going to do.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I talk about it first:** talking about things before you show them or things you are about to do helps to get your child interested in voices and to attach meaning to sound.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I use repetition:** your child needs the opportunity to hear words and phrases many times to develop their listening and language. As well as repeating what you say you can rephrase things too.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I alert my child to new sounds:** your child will hear many sounds in the world around them, point them out, show that you are interested in sounds and talk about them.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I give my child time to listen, time to think and time to talk:** you should pause often in conversations as your child needs as many opportunities as possible to talk for themselves.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I lean in to listen:** your child needs clues that it is their turn to talk so leaning in and looking expectant can help.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I repeat what my child says:** this shows your child that you are interested and gives them the chance to listen to the words again.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I respond to what my child says:** it is really exciting when your child begins to say things for themselves but you are having a conversation so don't forget to respond to keep the conversation going.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

**I add to what my child says:** you don't have to add lots of new words, just a little natural expansion to add to the conversation.

Never  Rarely  Sometimes  Mostly  Always/As appropriate

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Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always follow the directions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information.

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