

Parent Guide for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Tips to Support Students in Distance Learning

This guide answers some commonly asked questions and recommends resources to support your child's auditory learning at home.

WHEN AT HOME, WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD BE WEARING THEIR HEARING TECHNOLOGY?

- Children should wear their hearing devices during all waking hours.
- Having access to sounds in the environment will increase your child's incidental learning, which is very important to their social, cognitive and language development. Examples of incidental learning include watching TV, listening to music and overhearing other's conversations.
- If your child resists wearing their hearing devices, combine wearing the devices with an activity your child loves and gradually increase the time worn each day.
- For more information, please take a look at the video [Eyes Open, Ears On](https://www.uwo.ca/nca/fcei/hearon/captioned_videos.html), https://www.uwo.ca/nca/fcei/hearon/captioned_videos.html.

WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD'S HOME LEARNING ENVIRONMENT LOOK LIKE?

- Provide a quiet space for learning. If the environment is too noisy, your child may not be able to clearly hear all speech sounds. Check the room for distracting noises, such as a TV playing the background.
- Reduce reverberation (echo) with carpet on the floor, a tablecloth on the table and window curtains.
- Include visuals to help support your child's learning whenever possible. For example, always turn on closed captions when watching TV or videos, and use pictures to help younger children learn new vocabulary.
- If your child misses something in a conversation, resist the urge to say, "I will tell you later," or, "it's not important." It is important that your child have access to all information, even in informal conversations.

HOW DO I CONNECT MY CHILD'S HEARING TECHNOLOGY TO MY CHILD'S COMPUTER OR IPAD?

- Do a quick check of your child's amplification before connecting to the FM system.
- Ensure the batteries are fresh and tubes and molds are clear.
- Remember to charge all of your devices at the end of the day.
- Visit [this video link](#) for information on how to connect your child's transmitter to an iPad, laptop, or computer at home (https://youtu.be/U_9pHx2v534).

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING TO HELP IMPROVE MY CHILD'S SPEECH?

- There are many ways for parents/guardians to support their child's speech development.
- Please visit [HWDSB's Speech and Language Support website](#) for resources to support your child's speech, language and early literacy development (<https://speechandlanguagesupports.commonshwdsb.on.ca/>)

WHAT CAN I DO TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT MY CHILD'S SELF-ADVOCACY AT HOME?

- Teach your child how to clean and care for devices (e.g. store, reposition and check battery status).
- Teach your child from a young age the proper terms for their hearing equipment (i.e., cochlear implant has processors not "ears").
- Encourage your child to identify problems with their equipment.
- Encourage your child to ask for repetition/clarification if a message is not received/understood.
- Encourage older children to independently connect to technology.
- Integrate alerts into your child's life, such as an alarm clock, to foster independence.
- Have your child develop an "All about Me" pamphlet that includes their hearing information, technology used and useful tips that they can share with their teachers upon return to school.

WHAT APPS OR WEBSITES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT MY CHILD'S AUDITORY LEARNING?

	NAME	DIVISION	DESCRIPTION	LINK
	Advanced Bionics Listening Adventures	Primary	Games to practice auditory memory, comprehension, and following directions.	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ab-listening-adventures/id898695069
	Advanced Bionics vocAB Scenes	Primary	Build language, vocabulary and memory skills with 6 different scenes and games.	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ab-scenes/id905143070
 <i>Note: Free trial until June 30, 2020</i>	Hear Builder	Primary	Practice auditory memory, sequencing, phonemic awareness and following directions through games.	https://www.hearbuilder.com/
	Phonemic Awareness Bubbles	Primary	Listening to beginning sounds, same sounds, pairing same sounds.	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/phonemic-awareness-bubbles/id1264664062
	English Test Listening Skill	Junior -Senior	Activities to develop listening comprehension accuracy.	https://apps.apple.com/us/app/english-test-listening-skill/id1037772099
	Soundscape Interactive Listening Activities	All	Interactive listening games and activities designed to test and hone listening skills.	https://www.medel.com/ca/resources-for-success-soundscape/
	The Listening Room	All	Activities and resources to support the development of speech, language, and listening skills.	https://thelisteningroom.com/en/
	Deafverse	Teen	Video game created to build confidence and self advocacy skills for teenage Deaf ASL users.	https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/deafverse/index.html

If you have any questions about your child, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher or the Learning Resource Teacher at your child's school.