

Aural Habilitation Therapy

What is Aural Habilitation?

The goal of AH (Aural Habilitation) therapy is to help children learn to make sense of sound and speech. They do this by developing their listening, speaking and language skills. When a child with hearing loss gets a hearing aid or cochlear implant, they are suddenly surrounded by a world of sound that makes little sense to them.

In therapy, children learn that sounds have meaning. They will learn words, phrases and more complex spoken language. AH will help your child develop speech skills through listening.

How is Aural Habilitation different from Speech and Language therapy?

Both therapies are for children with speech and language delays. AH therapy is for children whose delays are due to hearing loss. Some children with hearing loss benefit from both AH and Speech and Language therapy. Children who have strong listening skills or other needs may go to a Speech and Language Pathologist for more work on language or speech skills.



A child with a cochlear implant practices listening and talking with his dad. Parents play a central role in AH therapy.

To Learn More

- Childhood Communication Center
206-987-3853 (Voice)
206-987-2788 (TTY)
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers
206-987-2280 (TTY)



“Hoo, hoo” – A beginning listener plays with sounds that are meaningful and interesting.

Is Aural Habilitation right for my child?

Any child with permanent hearing loss and speech and language delays may have an Auditory Skills Evaluation. An AH specialist will assess your child's listening and speech skills and determine if the delays are related to hearing loss. After this evaluation, the AH specialist will decide if your child might benefit from AH therapy.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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