

Deadly Ears

Helping little people
to hear, talk, learn and play

Support strategies for children with fluctuating conductive hearing loss

Strong hearing is important in early childhood centres so children can listen, talk, play and learn. Sometimes children have trouble with their hearing because of middle ear disease.

How can we help children with hearing troubles?

Be face to face

Get down on the child's level to interact with them. Make sure children can see your face during interactions.



In group based activities, it is important to ensure those children who have been identified as having ear and hearing troubles are seated at the front, close to the person speaking to help them hear better.

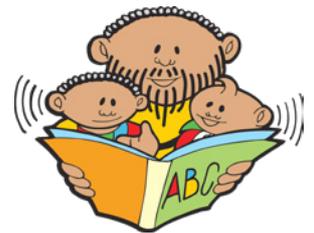
Use visuals

Use actions when talking to children. Use pictures (e.g. posters) and objects to help them understand and learn language.



Promote early literacy

Share books and stories. Label resources and areas in the room. Point out written words. Link written and spoken words (e.g. write what children say about their art etc). Sing songs and share nursery rhymes.



Reduce background noise

Consider what appliances in the room might be making lots of noise (e.g. fans, air conditioners). Soft surfaces can help to reduce background noise (e.g. cushions) which will help children to hear better.

Daily routines and transitions

Use daily routine visuals to help children know what's happening next. Make sure the transitions between activities are structured and familiar.

Chat

Talk about the children's interests. Explore new words – talk about how the word sounds, what it means and how to use the word in sentences (e.g. 'gigantic' is a word that means really, really big. The ocean is gigantic! Gigantic has three beats/ syllables 'gi', 'gan' 'tic').



Contact us

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 t 07 3310 7709 or 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84)
 w www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/deadly-ears
 f www.facebook.com/DeadlyEars #DeadlyEars

Hearing and listening devices

Some children with a conductive hearing loss may need help to hear better. They may have a special amplification device from Australian Hearing. These often look like a hat or a headband. If a child has one it is important that they wear it. For more information about hearing aids visit the Australian Hearing website www.hearing.com.au

Consider using a whole of class Sound Amplification System (SAS) during group times. SAS makes the teacher's voice louder in the classroom. This can help children with a conductive hearing loss to hear better.

For further information please visit our Facebook page or website (see below).



Above: Headband style amplification device.



Above: Hat style amplification device.



Above: Sound Amplification System (SAS)



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