

AUDITORY FIRST

A Listening and Spoken Language Strategy

WHAT is it?

As a LSL strategy “*auditory first*” is telling before showing.

Auditory first also refers to a way of approaching everyday living with your child with a hearing loss. It means making sure their devices are functioning and that plenty of meaningful listening opportunities are available throughout the day.

WHY do we use it?

Learning to listen is a lot of work. Sometimes it is easier to rely on visual cues to see what someone said instead of really trying to figure out what they said. When we “tell” first without any extra visuals, it helps children focus on the words or sounds they heard and gives them a chance to think about what they mean.

WHEN do we use it?

The goal is to have your child practice making sense of what they hear. So, *auditory first* is a great strategy to use at any age or stage of listening or language development. It can be used all throughout the day and is often used as part of other LSL strategies.

HOW do we do it?

Tell

Give a direction, or talk about something using only words

Show

Make a gesture, or show the thing you are talking about

Who
can use it?

Anyone!

Parents, family members, teachers, and therapists can all use LSL strategies to support your child’s listening and spoken language development!

WHAT does it look like at home?

Practicing LING sounds: Parent hides an airplane toy under the table: “Aah. Did you hear that? I heard, Aah.” *brings out airplane* “Look it’s the airplane! Aah”

Reading a book: Parent holds book pages facing themselves: “In a little cottage in the woods, lived a daddy bear, a momma bear, and a little baby bear.” *turns the book to show the picture of the cottage and three bears.*

Making lunch: *Without any gestures* Parent: “We need to get a plate.” *points to the cupboard, then walks over to get down a plate.*

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