



Do you have a child in your district with a cochlear implant or hearing aid?



FACTS ABOUT HOW HEARING LOSS AFFECTS LANGUAGE AND READING



- ✓ Competency in reading is based on competency in language. Children who have language delays as a result of hearing loss are at risk for serious reading deficiencies. (Carney and Moeller 1998)
- ✓ Developing competency in reading depends on having competency in language, including vocabulary and syntax. (Ehri et al. 2001) (Raynor et al. 2001)
- ✓ Studies examining the effects of cochlear implantation on reading indicate that the improved auditory skills may be associated with better reading outcomes. ... Above and beyond the positive effects of the cochlear implant, it is anticipated that auditory/speech training may increase the deaf child's access to phonological information and word comprehension. (Spencer and Oleson 2008)
- ✓ Hearing loss impacts language development, which then impacts the development of reading skills.
- ✓ Parents who choose a cochlear implant for their young child usually do so because they want the child to become an oral communicator. Achieving this goal requires intensive emphasis on listening, speaking and spoken language development.
- ✓ Specialized instruction in listening and spoken language:
 - * enhances the growth in language skills that presumably underlies the increased rate of mainstream placement.
 - * equips most children with an increasing ability to participate in and benefit from the mainstream classroom.
 - * increases access to acoustic information of spoken language, leading to higher rates of mainstream placement in schools and lower dependence on special education support services. (Francis et al. 1999)
- ✓ It is recommended that all educational programs incorporate a well-designed and implemented speech and language development and auditory training program. (Connor et al. 2000)
- ✓ Children who use cochlear implants and hearing aids need specialized, intensive language instruction to catch up to their peers with normal hearing.
- ✓ Children who are deaf or hard of hearing learn differently than their peers with normal hearing. Hearing loss affects the ways children learn and requires strategies specifically geared to their needs and learning styles.
- ✓ For children who have significant hearing loss, acquiring competency in language typically requires intense instruction provided by skilled teachers experienced in working with children who have language delays resulting from hearing loss.



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