Top Tips - Unilateral Deafness (single-sided deafness)



The following strategies should help the language and communication development of a child with a single sided deafness

- Try to face the baby/child when you are talking to them
- If you have to sit next to them (e.g. on public transport) try and sit next to their better ear
- Try and make sure the space you are in is well lit so the child/baby can see your lip patterns/facial expressions clearly, e.g. avoid standing in front of windows/sun as this can cause shadow on your face.
- Try and have the baby/child facing you when you are talking to them, e.g. consider having a parent facing stroller.
- Use the baby/child's name first when you start talking to them to make sure you have their attention
- Try and build in 'quiet times', where there is limited background noise to allow the baby/child to focus on the speech/communication.
- Talk about what the baby/child is doing while they are doing it to help 'hang' language on the activity.
- Talk, sing, communicate – build in lots of times to communicate with the baby/child to build early communication skills and a basic understanding of why we communicate