**What do these words mean?**

Amplification devices are hearing aids, cochlear implants or any pieces of equipment that make sound louder.

Auditory, audition, and aural/tactorial refer to hearing.

Audiosensory is a graph showing the amount of the hearing loss from a hearing test. Decibels (dB) measure the amount of the hearing loss in business. Hertz (Hz) measures different pitches. After the hearing test, the audiologist draws the audiogram of the person’s hearing.

Auditory brainstem response (ABR) is a test that measures the hearing function in infants and young children. When the baby or child is asleep, we tape electrodes to the head. The test measures how the hearing nerve is working.

Decibel (dB) is the unit that measures loudness.

Frequency is the unit that measures pitch. Frequency is a single tone or note and can be high, low or medium. Hertz (Hz) describes frequency.

Language is a way people express thinking and communicating with others. Using language, we let other people know what we are thinking. We express our ideas and emotions. We solve problems and learn about different things.

Mapping is setting the levels for a cochlear implant.

Ototoxic aural (OAE) is testing that measures how we hear soft sounds. The inner ear makes these sounds. We measure OAEs with a small microphone placed in the ear canal.

Signing or sign language uses hands to express language.

Speech or talking is how someone uses his or her voice and says words.

Speechreading is understanding speech by watching someone’s mouth. People can fill in information by what is happening, what someone knows or experiences, or reading lips.

Spoken language uses listening and speaking to communicate.

Threshold is the softest possible sound that we can hear. An average threshold is 0 to 20 dB HL.

**Frequently asked questions:**

- How will we communicate with our child?
- What will our child learn to read?
- What special training will we need?
- What about American Sign Language (ASL)?
- Will our child have to go to special schools?
- How will we communicate with our child?
- What special training will we need?
- Will our child have to go to special schools?

**Goals**

- Develop a positive self image and identify with the deaf community.
- Use ASL as primary language. Spoken and/or written English may become a second language.
- Use ASL exclusively at home.
- Use written English.

**Definition**

Visual communication uses sign language as the primary communication tool. A combined approach is using sign language and spoken communication.

Spoken language approach is teaching speech, listening and using language skills through hearing.

**Types**

- **American sign language (ASL)** is a visual language made of unique gestures and language codes. Many people who are deaf only use this language and do not use speech. Written deaf only use this language and codes. Many people who are deaf use speech.

- **Conceptually accurate signed English (CASE) or pinch signed with English (PSE)**

- **Total communication (TC)** or conventional communication

- **Manually coded English (MCE)**

- **Other communication methods**

- **Deaf children and their families:**
  - **Access to American Sign Language (ASL):**
  - **Comprehension of ASL:**
  - **Use of ASL:**
  - **Stress reading at home:**
  - **Provide deaf community interactions for the child:**
  - **Literacy and written English:**

- **Auditory-verbal (AV):**

- **Auditory-oral (AO):**

- **Spoken language:**

**Responsibilities**

- Seek out fluent users of the sign approach chosen as a role model for your child.
- Family members should become fluent in sign.
- Consistently use sign and spoken language strategies.
- Learn to cue fluently.
- Always use amplification.
- Cue all of the time.

The following chart shows the communication approaches, expected outcomes and some goals for children with a hearing loss or deafness.

**Visual approaches**

- **Combined approaches**

- **Spoken language approaches**

**Goals**

- **How will we communicate with our child?**
- **What special training will we need?**
- **Will our child have to go to special schools?**

**Definition**

- **Combined approach:**
  - **Use ASL as primary language. Spoken and/or written English may become a second language.**

- **Goals:**
  - **Develop a positive self image and identify with the deaf community.**
  - **Use ASL as primary language. Spoken and/or written English may become a second language.**
  - **Use ASL exclusively at home.**
  - **Use written English.**

**Types**

- **American sign language (ASL):**
  - **Spoken language approach:**
  - **Auditory-verbal (AV):**
  - **Auditory-oral (AO):**
  - **Spoken language:**

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**Goals**

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- **Combined approach:**
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**Types**

- **American sign language (ASL):**
  - **Spoken language approach:**
  - **Auditory-verbal (AV):**
  - **Auditory-oral (AO):**
  - **Spoken language:**

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