



3575 Kaslo Street
Vancouver, BC V5M 3H4
T 604.437.0255
F 604.437.0260
childrenshearing.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

Centre marks Better Hearing and Speech Month Offers tips for developing listening and spoken language skills in young children

Vancouver, BC, May 18, 2016 – Children’s Hearing & Speech Centre of BC (est. 1963) is providing tips to parents to help support listening and spoken language development in babies and children as part of Better Hearing and Speech month. The strategies are critical for children who have hearing loss, which the Centre serves, but also support academic and social/emotional development in typically hearing children.

“Children learn to speak by hearing language,” said Janet Weil, Executive Director and Principal of Children’s Hearing & Speech Centre of BC. “All parents – whether their children have typical hearing, are hard of hearing, or are deaf – can help their children learn to listen and speak by incorporating simple, but intentional activities into their daily household routines.”

To support listening skills and spoken language development, parents are encouraged to:

1. Get their baby’s hearing checked. All babies born in BC are entitled to a hearing test soon after birth. Children are also offered a hearing screening in their kindergarten year. For more information, visit [HealthLinkBC](#).
2. Promote literacy. Read aloud to your child. Aim to read five books with your child each day. (Children with hearing loss should read between 15 and 20 books with an adult every day.) Read books, street signs, logos, look at the numbers and letters on license plates. Tell stories without books.
3. Turn off the TV or radio. Minimize background noise. Little brains are trying to gather information, but it’s much too confusing to have to learn language when there is competing noise.
4. Sing with your child! There is a part of our brain that remembers language through music. Sing to your baby about everything you are doing –with repetition and joy! Play music to dance to, sing along to, make music with instruments and handmade instruments. Copy rhythms and beats. Sing, sing, sing.
5. Use your words. Talk about what you are doing and seeing and what your child is doing and seeing. Stretch your child’s language with lots of vocabulary and complex sentence structure.

Children’s Hearing & Speech Centre of BC is the only independent school of its kind in Western Canada and one of three in Canada that teaches children who are deaf and hard of hearing to listen and to speak. Through advances in technology and education, children are learning to speak for themselves and fully participate in the hearing world without the use of sign language.

Media contact:

Janet Weil
Executive Director & Principal
Children’s Hearing & Speech Centre of BC
604-437-0255
jweil@childrenshearing.ca