



Tell Me About It: Continuous talk grows a baby's brain

Did you know that it's important for you and your family members to talk about everything you do with your newborn? Even babies with profound hearing loss can access important auditory information with their hearing aids or cochlear implants to build their brain for listening.

Wearing their hearing aids or cochlear implants during all waking hours and talking to your baby during your daily routines helps their brain develop connections for listening, speaking, and reading later in life. Here are a few tips to get you going.

You can help your baby learn new words by naming objects they see in the world around them. Babies with hearing loss need to hear words over and over again, and hear them in short sentences.

For example, during feeding time, before showing the bottle, say, "Oh, you're ready for your bottle. Let's get your bottle." Pause and observe your baby's response. Did they search for the bottle or show excitement? Then show the bottle to your baby and say, "Here is your *bottle*. I bet you're hungry for your *bottle*. That *bottle* is so yummy!"

Before you give the bottle to your baby, pause and wait to see what happens. Your baby may look longer or begin to make sounds letting you know they see and want the bottle.

Finally, observe your baby's reaction. Did your baby make any sounds? If so, keep the conversation going by naming and talking about the object as you care for your baby.

Not only does talking build connections in your baby's brain for listening and spoken language, but it helps create bonds between you and your baby that last a lifetime.

For more practical tips like these, visit us at our website.