

COMMUNICATION

OPTIONS

Finding What Fits for Your Family



Families of children with hearing loss have several communication options. These may include listening and spoken language, sign language, bilingual-bimodal approaches (speech and sign), or total communication strategies that combine multiple forms of communication.

There is no single approach that works best for every child or family. Decisions about communication often depend on factors such as the child's hearing levels, age of diagnosis, access to technology, additional challenges, family preferences, and cultural perspectives.

Resources such as those provided by My Baby's Hearing, the John Tracy Clinic, Auditory Verbal UK, VOICE, Silent Voice, Hands and Voices, Canadian Hearing Services, encourage families to explore different communication options and make informed decisions that reflect their goals and values. Early intervention professionals can demonstrate strategies and help families understand how different approaches work in everyday life.

The most important factor is that children have consistent access to language. Whether language is spoken, signed, or both, meaningful communication helps children develop relationships, understand their environment, and express themselves.

Families often find that their communication journey evolves over time. As children grow and their needs change, communication strategies may also adapt.