



Learning to Listen Childcare Series

Mealtime

Collaborative with North Carolina

Early Learning Sensory Support Program

Stages of Listening to Sound

Children with hearing loss that are using cochlear implants or hearing aids need help learning to listen. Everyday routines within the classroom are perfect for learning and making sound-object connections. Knowing the stages of listening can help teachers support children with learning to listen.

Try the strategies below to help the child build awareness of sounds, identify the sounds, and comprehend the sounds during mealtime.

Awareness	Identification	Comprehension
Teacher helps me notice a sound by pointing to it and naming it.	I know what the sound is.	I notice, understand, and respond to the sound.

Sound Awareness	Sound Identification	Sound Comprehension
Try saying these things during mealtime:	You know this is happening when:	You know this is happening when:
"I heard the water running, shhh."	The child looks at the water.	The child might point and say, "water."

"I heard the chair scrape."	The child looks at the chair.	The child might point and say, "chair" or "sit."
"I heard the juice pour, splash."	The child looks at the cup.	The child might point and say, "more" or "juice."
"I heard the trash can close, thump."	The child looks at the trash can.	The child might point and say, "all done."
"I heard your friends talking."	The child looks at other children.	The child might point and say, "friend."