



Learning to Listen – Tooth Brushing

Collaborative with North Carolina

Early Learning Sensory Support Program

Stages of Listening to Sound

Children with hearing loss using cochlear implants or hearing aids need help learning to listen. Everyday routines are perfect for learning and making sound-object connections. Knowing the stages of listening can help you support your child with learning to listen during tooth brushing.

Awareness	Identification	Comprehension
Caregiver 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 tooth brushing:	You know this is happening when:	You know this is happening when:
“I heard the water dripping, drip.”	The child looks at the water.	The child might point and say, “drip drip.”
“I heard the toothbrush on the sink, tap tap.”	The child looks at the sink or the toothbrush.	The child might point and say, “tap tap” or “all done.”
“I heard the door close.”	The child looks at the door.	The child might point and say, “close” or “door.”

"I heard the toothbrush on your teeth go ch-ch-ch."	The child looks at the toothbrush.	The child might point and say, "brush," "clean," or "ch-ch-ch."
"I heard the toothpaste lid snap closed."	The child looks at the toothpaste.	The child might point and say, "done" or "close."
"I heard you spit, puh puh."	The child looks at the sink.	The child might point and say, "puh puh."