

Where do I start?

Sssshhhhhhhh!

Your baby will hear best if the environment is quiet. Make sure the TV and radio are off. Even things like fan heaters and ceiling fans can cause background noise, so be aware of them. Does the room 'sound' good? When you talk, does your voice echo? This is not a good thing, as it makes listening more difficult. Ideal listening conditions are a regular sized room with carpet on the floor and lots of soft furnishings to prevent reverberation.

Six inches away while you play!

For best results with beginner listeners, speak at a normal volume approximately six inches (15cm) from the listening ear. If you raise your voice from this distance, you will distort the signal, making it sound 'fuzzy'.

Developing listening attention: "I hear that!"

Your child's attention needs to be drawn to noises in the environment. When you hear something – for example, the phone ringing – point to your ear and say, "I hear that! It's the phone ringing!" Take your child to the source of the sound and point to it, saying "Listen, I can hear the phone!"

Remember, treat your baby as if he can hear perfectly.

