

Special Educational Needs Support Services (SENSS)
Deaf and Hearing support Team

~Attending and Listening~
Good Practice for Early Years Children with a hearing loss

- Routine songs; counting games; things you say as you change, dress, feed or wash your child. The more repetitive you are the more it all makes sense
- Play with sound making toys but don't let sound making toys mask out your voice. Pause when you are about to say something so your child is ready to listen
- Always be alert to sounds around and draw your child's attention to them
- Draw your child's attention to things of interest- these give you a reason to talk. Check when you are talking about what you are seeing, that the child is looking at the same things
- Talk about what you are doing and react to your child's reactions
- Play tickle games
- Repetitive peek-a-boo games
- Hiding and finding games
- Encourage turn taking. Offer turns in your conversation- waiting for your child to take a turn. Give your child plenty of time to reply
- Give your child something to do or hold in a game. Encourage opportunities for turn-taking. Action rhymes help your child to be involved
- Use anticipation games so your child learns to expect something is going to happen like a tickle, a cuddle, a boo, a snap or a roar
- Sharing books and the same ones again and again – you will be sharing the same focus and so it is clear about what you are saying. Continued sharing will allow the same language to be used, add your own ideas and repetitions. Help your child to anticipate and wait for the sound and action or participate in the expected action



Information about the SENSS local offer is available at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/services-support-children-learning>

Further strategies and resources available at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/early-years-sen-toolkit>