














Interacting with Your Baby Who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing

<p>1. Get in the child's line of vision and make eye contact before initiating interactions</p>	
<p>2. Get the child's attention either by waiting briefly until he looks or by gently attracting his attention (such as a soft touch on the shoulder or arm, lightly waving in the direction of his gaze)</p>	
<p>3. Even when promoting listening and speaking skills, feel free to use visual means of communication including natural gestures, pointing, miming, and demonstration</p>	
<p>4. Animate your facial expressions to reflect what vocal patterns might otherwise convey</p>	
<p>5. Respond to the child's vocalizations and laughter by changing your facial expression or by imitating her expression</p>	
<p>6. Imitate the child's facial expressions, vocalizations, and gestures; let the child respond, and then imitate the expression again</p>	

<p>7. When the child wakes up in the morning or from a nap, let her know you are entering the room by turning on a soft light</p>	
<p>8. Make eye contact with the child and lightly touch him before picking him up so he can anticipate the action</p>	
<p>9. When changing a diaper, show the child the diaper to let him know what is going to happen next (similarly, for a bath, changing clothes, mealtime, etc)</p>	
<p>10. Consider using a stroller that allows the child to be facing you so you can interact and connect visually</p>	
<p>11. Look for toys that have both visual and auditory effects (e.g., flashing lights along with songs)</p>	

This information is available in Arabic, Portuguese, German, and Spanish from your provider.

For additional resources, please visit our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program website at:

www.bostonchildrenshospital.org/dhhp