



Aural Re-habilitation Therapy

What is Aural Re-habilitation therapy?

The focus of aural re-habilitation therapy is to help your child develop their hearing and listening skills in order to process spoken language.

Is aural re-habilitation necessary for my child receiving a cochlear implant?

Aural re-habilitation therapy is a key factor in your child's success with a cochlear implant. The goal of aural re-habilitation is to assist your child in the development of their listening, speech and language skills. The cochlear implant is not a cure for deafness or hearing loss. It does, however, provide your child with an *opportunity to learn to listen*. Intensive and ongoing therapy and family involvement is necessary to help your child achieve maximize benefit from use of the cochlear implant. A team approach (physician, audiologist, therapist, teacher and family) is needed to help your child learn to listen. Regardless of your child's current communication mode and educational setting, listening must be an important part of your child's day.

What is my role in ensuring my child's success with the cochlear implant?

There are several factors that contribute to a child's success with the cochlear implant such as age at implantation, previous auditory experience, presence of other learning disabilities, educational and therapeutic environment, and family involvement. It is *critical* that you:

- Encourage your child to wear their cochlear implant *all* waking hours
- Bring your child to weekly therapy sessions and be an *active* participant
- Carry-over the techniques, strategies and language demonstrated in therapy sessions
- Learn and use the language that your child is learning in school and therapy

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