



What is the auditory sandwich

Today's state of the art hearing technology means that the majority of children are who are deaf or hard of hearing can access all the frequencies required to develop spoken language. Even so, many of these children still may focus on visual cues to learn language. Examples of this include following gestures, lip reading, looking at pictures and toys. Using the auditory sandwich helps our children to put meaning to spoken language through listening.

The sandwich includes hearing the message, providing a visual supplement if needed, and then presenting the original message through listening again (Estrabrooks, 2012). For example, if you say 'wave bye bye' and wave at the same time, the child is no longer listening to the words 'bye bye', but focusing on the waving motion. The auditory sandwich allows the child to hear the words first, put meaning to it through the action, and then hear what the command sounds like again.

Mother: Wave bye bye.... Wave bye bye

Mother then waves to indicate bye bye

Child imitates the wave.

Mother: That's right, wave bye bye!

Later on, the mother might say 'wave bye bye' without any visual cues. This is a way to assess their understanding through listening. If the child still needs the visual gesture of waving, remember to always complete the sandwich by put it back into audition. This is where positioning is important. To avoid lip reading, position yourself next to your child.

This can be done through your everyday life. A simple instruction such as, open the door, put it in the bin, go get your shoes. Remember the sandwich: audition, visual, audition.

This technique can be used to correct speech sounds. In this case, positioning yourself next to their ear is important to avoid lip reading.

Child: 'Look at the bish'

Mother: Yes, look at all those fffish

Child: I like bish

Mother point to mouth: ffffish

Child : fish

Mother moves next to the child: That's right, that's' a big fish!