



[This page prints out on 2 sheets]

## **Auditory-Oral Method (Oralism): Learning to Read Lips and Speak**

Read this page to learn what it is, and if it's right for your child.

### **What the auditory-oral method is**

- The word auditory (AU-di-tor-ee) refers to the **ears** and **hearing**. The word oral (O-ral) refers to the **mouth** and **speaking**.
- The auditory-oral method teaches children to do these things:
  - **Talk.**
  - **Use their hearing as much as they can.**
  - **Read lips.**
  - **Use other clues to understand what people are saying.**
- The auditory-oral method of communication is also called **oralism (O-ral-is-um)**. That's because it teaches children to talk and to read lips.



### **How learning the auditory-oral method (oralism) affects children's lives**

- Children will either have hearing aids or cochlear implants (**COKE-lee-er**). These are important in oralism. That's because they help children hear as much as possible.
- Children who are oral may go to public schools.
- They may also go to [schools for the deaf](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/choices/deafschoools.jsp) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/choices/deafschoools.jsp>) that use oralism. Eventually, they may go to [mainstream](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/choices/mainstream/) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/choices/mainstream/>) schools.

### **What other parents say**

Read our [Parent Talk](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/meet/parents/communicating.jsp) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/meet/parents/communicating.jsp>) page to see what parents said about the communication method they chose.

**Learn more about the auditory-oral method.**

- ["Educational Approach"](http://www.deafinx.com/options_oral.html) ([http://www.deafinx.com/options\\_oral.html](http://www.deafinx.com/options_oral.html)) talks about auditory-oralism's goals, problems and its good and bad points.
- ["Something to talk about: Spoken Language Approaches for Children with Hearing Loss"](http://www.agbell.org/news/something.pdf) (<http://www.agbell.org/news/something.pdf>) explains different ways of teaching children to talk.

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*You can find this page online at:*

<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/communicating/choices/ao.jsp>