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/deafschools.jsp) that use oralism. Eventually, they may go to 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) page to see what parents said about the communication method they chose.
Learn more about the auditory-oral method.


This page was last edited on February 17, 2004.

You can find this page online at: [http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/communicating/choices/ao.jsp](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/communicating/choices/ao.jsp)