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Auditory-Verbal Method (AV): Learning to Use the Hearing that is Left

Read this page to learn what the auditory-verbal method is, and if it's right for your child.

What the auditory-verbal method is

- The word auditory (AW-di-tor-ee) refers to the **ears** and **hearing**. The word verbal refers to the **mouth** and **words**.
- The auditory-verbal (AV) method teaches children to do these things:
 - **Use whatever hearing they have.** (This is called **residual hearing**.)
 - **Listen.** Instead of lipreading, children learn to listen.
 - **Speak.** By listening to other people, children can learn to speak better.

How the auditory-verbal method (AV) affects children's lives

If you choose this method, you and your child may have to:

- See an **AV therapist** every week. Each visit lasts about an hour.
- Use hearing aids or other listening devices every day.
- Practice listening and speaking at home.

What is an AV therapist?

An AV therapist is a person who is trained in the AV method. She can be a teacher of the deaf. She can be an audiologist. Or she can be a speech-language pathologist. An AV therapist teaches children to listen for sounds. For example, she might:

- Use **hand cues** to show your child when to listen.
Some examples of hand cues are covering her mouth, or talking through a toy.
- Reword sentences so your child understands them better.
- Repeat words or sentences.
- Whisper or sing, so your child gets used to different voice sounds.

The therapist will also teach **you** how to help your child:

- By practicing listening and speaking every day.
- By showing your child the right way to talk.

How to decide if the AV method is the right choice for your child

Here are some facts that may help:

- **The younger he is, the better.**
 - Starting early lets your child "exercise" his sense of hearing earlier.
 - Learning to listen earlier gives your child more time to practice before school starts.
- **The more he can hear, the better.**
 - The more he can hear, the easier it will be for him to listen.
- **The more he can sit still and pay attention, the better.**
 - Some children have problems paying attention. Hour-long visits to the therapist might be too much.

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.

How to find an AV therapist in your area

For a list of AV therapists in your area, go to Auditory-Verbal International's [map of therapists](http://www.auditory-verbal.org/AVLocator.asp) (<http://www.auditory-verbal.org/AVLocator.asp>). Then call or e-mail Auditory-Verbal International for the therapists' contact information:

Auditory-Verbal International

Voice: (703) 739-1049

TTY: (703) 739-0874

Fax: (703) 739-0395

E-mail: avi@auditory-verbal.org

Learn more about auditory-verbal therapy

- [Auditory-Verbal International, Inc.](http://www.auditory-verbal.org/) (<http://www.auditory-verbal.org/>) has good general information on the AV method.
- The [Auditory-Verbal Center of Atlanta](http://www.avc-atlanta.org/) (<http://www.avc-atlanta.org/>) has some great pages where parents can share stories.
- Read stories about children who used the AV method on the [Hear and Say Centre](http://www.hearandsaycentre.com.au/) (<http://www.hearandsaycentre.com.au/>) website.
- The [Learning to Listen Foundation](http://www.learningtolisten.org/index.html) (<http://www.learningtolisten.org/index.html>) tells you about home AV therapy. This site also has some great parent stories.

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You can find this page online at:

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