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) 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). 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**

- The [Auditory-Verbal Center of Atlanta](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/) website.
- The [Learning to Listen Foundation](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](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/communicating/choices/av.jsp)