

EYES OR EARS?



Our job is to develop a "listening brain"

Did your child see it or hear it?

It is important to know whether your child responded because ...

they SAW (EYES)... or

they HEARD (EARS) and understood

understanding through eyes ...

- you point
- you use your face, eyes or hands to show
- you look in the direction
- you make a gesture
- you show them
- the answer is obvious from the context



using these visual aids will help your child develop understanding ...

but we would like to put LISTENING first and only add LOOKING if we need to help them understand

understanding through ears ...

- they respond to the words you have been repeating and repeating and repeating
- they begin to understand the language you use in everyday routines
- you don't show them any clues and they do what you ask
- you talk and they do

"bye-bye" and baby waves

"aaah, cuddles" and baby leans in for a cuddle

"you want to come up-up-up?" and baby lifts arms to be picked up



LET'S PRACTICE EARS FIRST...

in the routine of dressing a toddler



Remember we are developing a "listening brain"

TALK first
and
SHOW later
if needed

become of aware of your own body language:
do you use your hands a lot?
are you very expressive with your face?

Put your toddlers clothes out on the bed: 3 items

sit or stand with them a little bit away from the bed and point to the clothes

tell your toddler: time to get dressed!

use your voice to get them interested and excited about the task
you are now both in the same 'thinking space' - you both understand what is about to happen

put your toddler down and ask them:

bring mommy your clothes.... ta! (ears first)

using a nice long /aa/ sound which will turn on their listening attention

in the beginning you may have to help them understand what you want them to do by putting out your hand, walking over with them, showing them (eyes as support)

let them toddle over and fetch an item and bring it back to you
praise them and repeat the task until you have all 3 items

repeating this daily should help them understand that the word 'ta' = fetch it for me