



# COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS A-Z™

## ***Auditory-Verbal Therapy***

### **What is Auditory-Verbal Therapy?**

In the typical Auditory-Verbal Therapy (A-V) model, listening is the primary avenue for the child to learn language. Hearing aids, cochlear implants and other recommended hearing technologies are used to help the child hear spoken language, which provides the foundation for learning how to talk. Signs are not used in the A-V approach; however, natural gestures that are used in typical conversation are included.

### **What issues are at the forefront of Auditory-Verbal Therapy?**

Auditory-Verbal Therapy is provided by professionals from the fields of speech/language pathology, audiology and education of the deaf and hard of hearing. Those professionals with the designation Cert. AVT have fulfilled the requirements to be certified Auditory-Verbal Therapists. Others may practice Auditory-Verbal Therapy, and may be working towards certification. Families are encouraged to ask about the professional's background, training and experience.

### **What should every parent or professional know about Auditory-Verbal Therapy?**

Auditory-Verbal Therapy can be used with most children; regardless of whether that child's hearing loss is in the mild through profound range. The goal is for the child to develop age-appropriate language abilities while living and learning fully in the mainstream, from the time the hearing loss is identified. Families who choose A-V are committed to working as partners with their child's A-V therapist. The role of the A-V professional is to inform, coach and support families as they learn how to be the most important teacher in their child's life.