



Aural (Re)habilitation

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What is Aural (Re)habilitation?

- Aural rehabilitation (AR), often referred to as aural rehab, encompasses a wide set of practices aimed at optimizing a person's ability to participate in activities that have been limited as a result of hearing loss.
- In children who are deaf/hard of hearing (d/hh), a skill may not be there in the first place, so it has to be taught. In this case, the services would be "habilitation," not "rehabilitation." You may hear these terms used interchangeably.
- Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP), Developmental Therapists - Hearing (DT/H), and audiologists are able to provide AR services.
- AR offers training in auditory perception which increases awareness of sound, identifying sounds, telling the difference between sounds (sound discrimination), and learning to attach meaning to sounds.
- For families learning sign language, AR provides a bridge that connects the sound the baby is hearing to the signs he/she is seeing.
- During AR, the therapist will assist in:
 - Using visual cues that give meaning to a message such as the speaker's facial expression, body language, and the context and environment in which the communication is taking place.
 - Developing spoken and/or signed language understanding (reception) and language usage (expression) according to developmental expectations.
 - Improving the family's understanding of hearing loss, teaching advocacy skills, how to handle communication breakdowns, and how to change situations to make communication easier.
 - Helping families AR manage hearing aids and assistive listening devices.