

HOW TO USE THE MY WORLD TOOL DURING THE CONSULTATION SESSION

A POSSIBLE PROCESS

Unless you have a specific listening or communication environment that you would like to explore, ask the child what they would like to tell you more about - e.g., home, school, playing outside, or socializing with friends at a particular often-visited place. The chosen environment should be connected to the goals for the session or the issues and challenges raised by the parents.

Take the selected environment and ask the child to help you make it "just for them" by arranging furniture and selecting characters to represent friends and themselves.

With the child, identify the primary communication partners in the selected environment. Ask the child for, or suggest, examples of communication challenges that might arise and ask the child to describe the situations to you.

You can use the child's responses to start exploring their world and how they advocate for effective listening, or you can brainstorm solutions to challenges that they present.

To "try-out" strategies, role play the situations with the child through the characters they've selected. You may also use the characters in the 'third person'. The aim would be to offer a set of characters that parallel / mirror the child's current situation. Suggest a communication environment such as, "This is my friend Johnny, he wears hearing aids. He is seven years old - just like you. This is his classroom. I wonder where he should sit so he can hear and understand the teacher?"

AS YOU USE THE TOOL

- Be sincerely curious and pay attention to what the child tells you
- Ask open-ended questions
- Ask "what would you do if...?"
- Role play solutions and strategies that are discussed with the child
- Ensure that the child has heard your message or question correctly and understands what to do

QUESTIONS TO ASK

Below are some examples of questions that you may want to ask the child when using each of the three My World environments:

Classroom:

- “Where do you sit in the classroom?”
- “Can you show me where your friends sit?”
- “When and where is it easy and when is it hard to hear in the classroom?”
- “When someone speaks from the back of the classroom, can you hear them?”
- “If you cannot hear well, what do you do?”
- “Let’s think of two other things you can do to hear better in the classroom”
- “Where does the teacher mostly sit or stand?”
- “Can you hear and understand what your teacher is saying?”
- “What do you do if you cannot hear the teacher?”
- “Let’s think of two things you can do or say, if you cannot hear your teacher”
- “Where are the windows? And the teacher’s computer screen and whiteboard?”

Home:

- Where in the house is your room?
- Can you hear your mom/dad if they call you from another room?
- What is the first thing you do when you come home from school?
- Where do you sit at the dinner table?
- Is it easy to talk to everyone at the table? Who talks the most?
- What do you do if you cannot participate in the conversation?
- Show me where you sit when you watch television.
- Where do your parents/siblings sit?

- Can you hear well when watching the television?
- Do you need the television up loud or not so loud?
- Where and when in the house is it easiest / most difficult for you to hear?
- What do you do if you are at home and you struggle to hear – e.g. in the kitchen if your mom is cooking / at dinner / when the dog barks / if your baby sister is crying / etc.?

Outdoor area:

- Do you like being outside?
- What do you enjoy doing when you play outside?
- When is it difficult / easy for you to hear outside?
- What do you do when it is hard for you to hear?
- Where do you live – in an apartment / house / farmhouse / other?
Can you find something that we could pretend is your home on the board?
- How do you mostly get around (bicycle, car, train, bus, other)?
- Do you manage on your own or are you mostly with an adult?
- If you cycle to school or sports, do you wear a helmet? How well can you hear when you have your helmet on?
- How well do you hear when you are riding your bike/walking to the bus/train/riding in the car?
- What do you do to make sure you stay safe in the traffic?
- If you have a dog, can you show me where you walk it? How is that going?

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Below are some general questions that you can ask to get an overall feel for how the child is coping with the hearing aids and with difficult communication situations.

- How are your hearing aids working?
- Do you hear the same every day?

- How can you tell when your hearing aids aren't working correctly or if they are broken?
- What do you do when that happens?
- Do you tell anyone when it is hard to hear?
- What do you like listening to the most?
- What sounds bother you and why?
- Is it too noisy sometimes? When?
- Is it too loud sometimes? When?
- Does it help you understand when you can see and listen to people talking?
- Do you also use sign language to communicate?
- If yes, when do you use your sign language the most?
- Do you get tired listening all day? What do you do when that happens?
- What do you say to others when they ask you what is in your ears?

PHOTOS FOR INSPIRATION

To quickly find out which situations it would be relevant and important to discuss with the child, you can ask them to bring a few photos of everyday communication situations to the appointment.

These photos can be a starting point for your conversation and may offer concrete situations that it will be helpful to role play using the My World tool.

You may also ask the child to do a photo journey of their life with hearing loss. This journey can show what they enjoy doing, how they cope in those situations, and who their main communication partners are in different environments.