

Cochlear Implant

Listening Skills Development

Guide to Rate of Progress

Development timings are only indicative and will vary according to a number of factors.
Ask your cochlear implant team about factors that may impact your child's rate of progress.*

1-4	weeks after switch-on	Stage 1 Awareness of Sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness of voice • Awareness of environmental sounds (able to localise sound) • Detection of Ling sounds ('a' 'ee' 'oo' 'm' 'sh' 's') • Respond to own name (through listening alone) <p>From 1-3 months: development of discrimination/ identification** of Ling sounds</p> <p>** Discrimination: the ability to perceive difference between two or more speech sounds. Identification: the ability to recognise a sound by repeating, pointing, or writing what is heard.</p>
2-5	months after switch-on	Stage 2 Suprasegmental Discrimination and Association	<p>Pattern perception and non-language aspects of speech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish changes in vocal length (duration: long & short) • Discriminate intensity/pitch (loud & soft; high & low) • Perceive difference in intonation/ stress/ rhythm/ rate • Imitating Learning to Listen sounds (Dog-woof; Cow-moo) • Perceive difference in word length (1,2,3+ syllables) • Discriminate sentence length (short phrases)
6-9	months after switch-on	Stage 3 Segmental Discrimination and Association	<p>Follow developmental steps for listening, language and speech (refer to <i>Listen, Learn & Talk</i>, Cochlear 2003)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discriminate consonant and vowel difference in 1, 2 & 3 syllable words (ball, apple, dinosaur) • Discriminate between increasingly similar words: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Consonant same, vowel different (boat, bat, bus; cat, coat, car; hat, hit, hot) – Consonant only different by manner (house, mouse; bat, mat, fat, sat)
9-18	months post-implant	Stage 4 Identification	<p>Identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 key word in context. With & without suprasegmentals • 2 key words in context, in one sentence • 3 key words in context, in one sentence • 4+ words in context, in one sentence
18+	months post-implant	Stage 5 Processing and Comprehension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced vocabulary development (expand categories, abstracts) • Increase word play association through listening • Answer simple questions (where, what, who) • Understand increasingly complex sentences with 3+ elements • Listen to short paragraphs and answer simple questions • Answer complex questions (how, why, what next) • Listen to longer paragraphs and answer complex questions • Sequence with and without visual support like pictures and cards. • Increase cognitive language skills (more complexity) • Follow conversation with familiar topic • Follow open-ended conversation (topic unknown; unfamiliar speaker)

* Factors Affecting Progress

- Age at diagnosis and implantation
- Cause of hearing impairment
- Duration and degree of hearing impairment
- Audiological management

- Health of the child
- Family participation
- Child's intelligence and learning style