

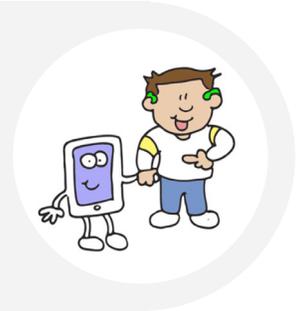


# Apps With A Plan

## For Listening, Talking and Sharing

### THE PLAN

Plan ahead to get the most listening, spoken language and learning from the time spent together using apps with your child who is deaf or hard of hearing. A plan can help draw people closer rather than just drawing them into the device's screen.



#### 1. The Smart Device Belongs to the Adult

It is the adult who manages time spent with apps, and the child needs to know when and how the tablet can be used. Rules and expectations for turn taking and sharing of the technology should be clear.

#### 2. Use Auditory First Strategies

Apps require intentional planning to stimulate a child's brain through listening. Use listening and spoken language (LSL) teaching strategies and techniques when sharing apps with the child. Consider ways to use the app to highlight listening, expand vocabulary, teach concepts, take turns and engage with one another using spoken language.



#### 3. Do Your Homework

Choose apps based upon the child's LSL goals. Consider the goal first and then if there is an app for that outcome rather than picking an app because it is popular. Learn the app's features and think through the strategies you will use before introducing it to the child.



#### 4. Three Hands on the Device

Both the adult's and the child's hands should be interacting with the tablet just like when reading a storybook together. A trap adults can easily fall into with screens is to allow the child to participate with the app while they fall into the "audience" role. Remember, the goal is talk time, not screen time.



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Hearing First in association with Lynn A. Wood M.A. CCC-A, LSL Cert. AVT.  
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<https://hearingfirst.org/blog/2017/02/09/for-the-love-of-apps>