

December 2012

Christmas Present Ideas

Christmas is around the corner. Here are a few ideas that will make a child smile and support learning / listening skills.



Leaptop

Personalize pretend computer play with My Own Leaptop for ages 2 years and

up Choose and download songs for a custom playlist (Internet connection required) Choose from 8 email messages and personalize for your child to enjoy (Internet connection required) Explore the alphabet, pretend play, music, animals and computer literacy with 6 learning activity stations



Let's Rock Elmo

Elmo comes with his very own microphone and two instruments - a tambourine and a drum set. Preschoolers can choose which instrument Elmo plays, and he "magically" recognizes which one you give him. For even more rockin' fun, Elmo also interacts with other LET'S ROCK instruments (each sold separately) Elmo knows when you're playing the LET'S ROCK Guitar, Keyboard or Microphone and plays along with you! The LET'S ROCK Elmo toy sings six rockin' songs, so grab an instrument and join Elmo's band! Figure comes with microphone, tambourine, drums and instructions



Baby Signing Time DVD Collection

Baby Signing Time Vol. 1: It's Baby Signing Time DVD

Baby Signing Time Vol. 2: Here I Go DVD

Baby Signing Time Vol. 3: A New Day DVD

Baby Signing Time Vol. 4: Let's Be Friends DVD

Parent Links
Is...

a program of the California Department of Education funded by a federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau grant. The Parent Links name and materials are used with permission of the Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc.

Featured Event:

Family Fun Weekend



**For Families with Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Children**
March 22nd - 24th 2013

- Connect with other families
- Have fun as a family
- Learn tips to foster language and academic development
- Participate in family team building activities

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Kid Camp- ages (3-8) (9-12) – Teen Camp (ages 12-18)

Children ages 0-3 Program

This event will be hosted at the California School for the Deaf in Fremont California.

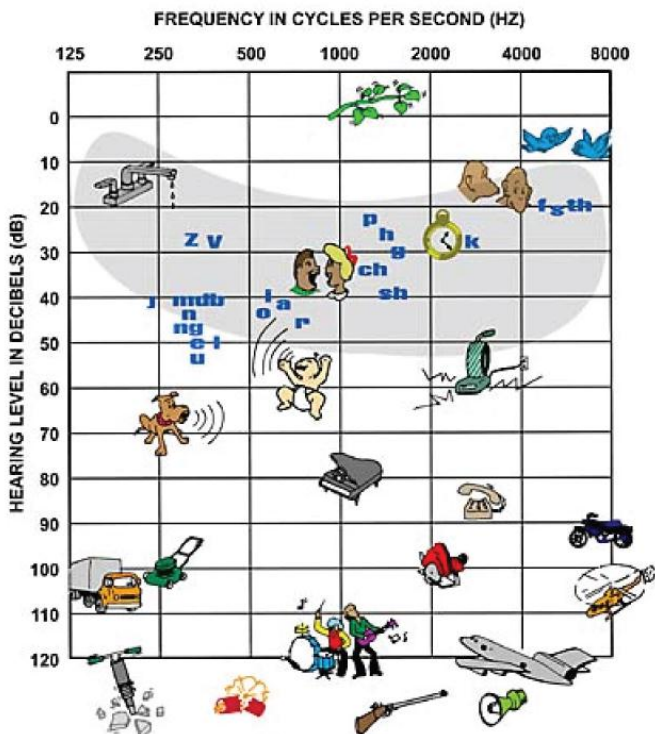
For two adults and two children cost is only 150.00 which include lodging, three meals, Parent Workshops, Childcare and kid/teen camp. . Scholarships will be available on a limited basis.

Contact lpetersen@csdq-cde.ca.gov or call 5110-794-3751 Videophone 510-344-6191

Parent Workshops

- Communicating with your child at home
- Encouraging the love of reading
- Expectations and your child's developmental milestones
- Parents of Deaf children panel

AUDIOGRAM OF FAMILIAR SOUNDS



Audiogram of Familiar Sounds:



Digitalhearingcare.org.uk

Keeping Hearing Aids On Your Child

Excerpt from Article at listem-up.org

One of the biggest problems most parents of newly diagnosed children face is keeping the hearing aids on the child. Even some who have been wearing hearing aids for a while persist on taking them out. Why? And even more importantly, what can you do about it?

Let's look at it from the child's point of view. Suddenly these things are stuffed into their ears and fill their world with noise, lots of it. Their first response is, quite naturally, to get rid of these things. Slowly, as the child begins to make associations that turn that "noise" into sound with meaning, the child begins to leave them in for longer periods of time. When my son first got his hearing aids, we were told "If he takes them out, just put them back in. If he takes them out 1000 times in one day, you put them back in 1001. Don't show anger. Don't show frustration. Don't scold. Just put them back in."

There are a few things you should look into if your child is not beginning to leave them in, or if they have leaving them in but are not removing them:

- Are the hearing aids and settings appropriate for your child? Are they working?
 - If the hearing aids are not working properly, have disturbing sounds or are of no benefit, the child just will not leave the hearing aids in.
- Are the ear molds new?
 - Sometimes new earmolds just don't fit right and the child can't hear as well with them.
 - They may be rubbing a sore spot on the ear, making it painful to leave the hearing aids in.
 - They may be allergic to the materials the ear mold are made of, or the dye used to tint them. Each of the earmold manufacturers can make earmolds that are hypo-allergenic.
- Are the earmolds old?
 - Sometimes when they outgrow their earmolds, feedback isn't the first noticeable sign. In my son's case, he notices a drop in his hearing before we get feedback problems.
- Are the earmolds appropriate?
 - The best hearing aids in the world won't help a child if the earmolds are not appropriate. Slight changes in the earmold or tubing can cause drastic differences in the sound your child receives. Appropriate, proper fitting earmolds are as essential to providing sound to your child as the hearing aids are.
- Is your child getting an ear infection?
 - This can make it painful to wear hearing aids. If hearing aids cause discomfort or pain, the child won't leave them in.
- Does your child have hardened ear wax in the ear canal?
 - Hardened ear wax can cause discomfort to a hearing aid use.

OK, so you're working on the above, but in the meantime what can you do so that your child doesn't lose these expensive devices?

You can attach the hearing aids to the child's shirt or blouse so that they don't go too far. Huggie Aids has a product out to do just that. Also available are Critter Clips, Sea Clips, Dino Clips, Oto-Clips Clear (colors too), Kid Clips, and SafeNSound security straps. Another less expensive idea is to use the cords that hold on glasses. They come with a flexible loop on both ends. They create a nice snug fit and not easily taken off. To secure cord; tie a loop in the cord and secure it with a safety pin on the back of child's shirt or the inside of the collar. Now if the hearing aids come off they won't be lost.



Parent Mentors

Offering support to parents is what Parent Links is all about. Each mentor is a parent of a deaf or hard of hearing child.

- Through email, phone and mail we are here to help answer the questions that parents may have about raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.
- Help parents find local connections.

Parent Mentoring in Spanish and English... Just give us a call

Exceptional Parents Unlimited

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Counties

Alameda, Contra Costa
Fresno, Kings
Madera, Mariposa
Merced, Monterey
San Benito,
San Francisco
San Joaquin, San Mateo
Santa Clara, Santa Cruz
Stanislaus, Tulare

Family Focus Resource & Empowerment Center

Irma Sanchez
Cora Shahid
Kristal Molina
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA 91330
818-677-6854 Office

Counties

Imperial, Inyo
Kern, Los Angeles
Mono, Orange
Riverside, San Bernardino
San Diego,
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara, Ventura

Rowell Family Empowerment Center

Kat Lowrance
Cindy Sandoval
962 Maraglia Street
Redding, CA 96002
530-226-5129

Counties:

*Alpine, Amador, Butte,
Calaveras Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas
Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma Sutter, Tehama, Trinity Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba*