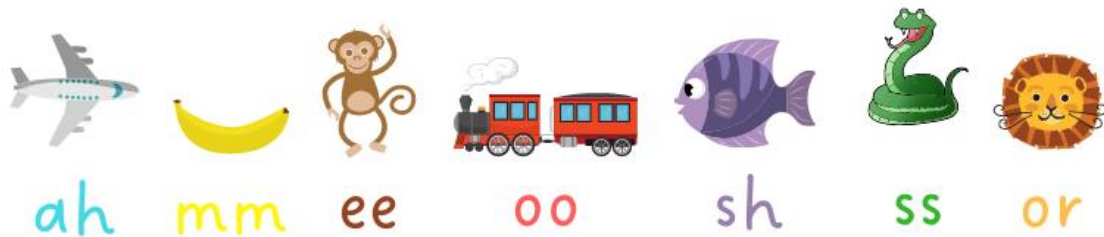


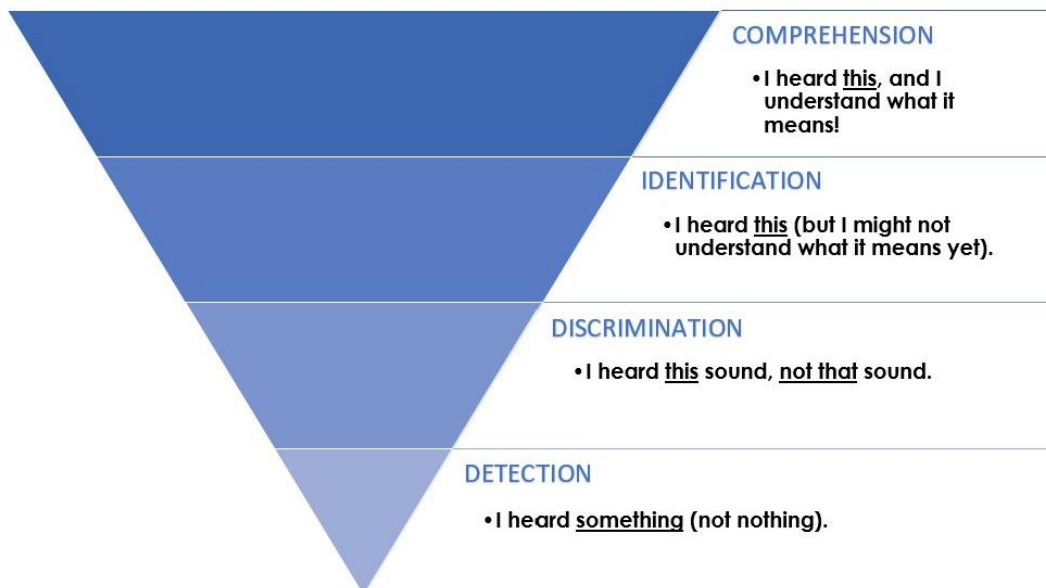
The Functional Listening Check

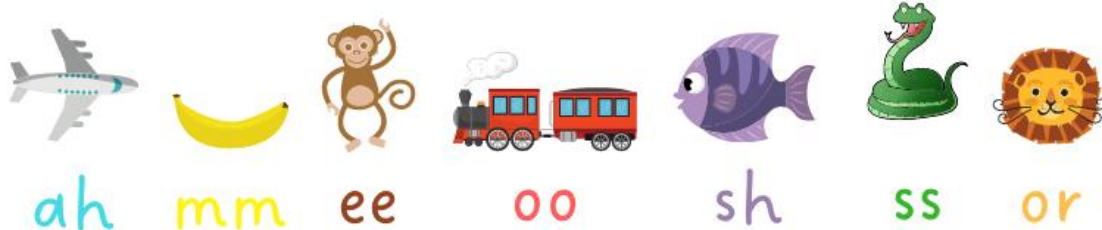
Using the 7 Sounds

The Seven Sounds (also called the Ling Sounds, Ling 6, or 7 Sounds here in Australia) are a tool you can use to gather useful information about your child's functional listening skills and access to sound across the audiogram. The sounds are listed below, and the images show some options for the toys or pictures that are commonly associated with each sound. It doesn't matter which toys or pictures you use, as long as you use the same ones consistently to build sound-to-object associations.



The sounds range from low frequency sounds like 'mm' through to high frequency speech sounds like 'ss'. Children can learn respond to the sounds in different ways, depending on their age and stage of development. The aim is to teach your child how to respond to the sounds, and to establish a pattern of what 'typical' responses look like so that if anything changes, you can troubleshoot with your team.





The way your child responds will depend on their age and stage of development, but in most cases, children work from detection, up the pyramid to comprehension as they learn and grow.

1 Detection

Your child changes their behaviour in some way, to show you 'I heard something!'. For example, you say 'ahhHHhh' and your child raises their eyebrows, become still, or change their expression to show they heard something. Older children may turn to look for where the sound came from or take a turn at a game like adding a piece to a puzzle or stacking blocks into a tower, each time they hear a sound. A detection response shows us that the child heard something, but doesn't tell us what the child heard or whether they heard it clearly.

2 Discrimination

At this stage, your child knows whether two sounds are the same, or different. They might show you by looking towards the 'right' toy or picture for that sound to show you 'I heard this, not that', but we still don't know whether they heard the sound clearly or not.

3 Identification

Now your child can show you 'I heard this!'. Early identification responses might look like choosing the 'right' toy or picture for each sound, this helps us to be more certain that they're hearing the sound consistently, but we don't yet know that they're hearing it correctly. As your child grows, they will learn to identify what they heard by imitating the sound, and at this stage, we can start to understand if your child is hearing consistently and correctly. The way your child imitates sounds, gives us valuable information about which sounds are audible and which sounds might not be audible to them.

4 Comprehension

Now your child knows how to play the game, they can tell us 'I heard this, it's the plane that flies up in the sky'. The child can use the information they've heard in a meaningful way, showing us that they hear the sound, and that they understand what it means. Understanding what we hear forms the foundation for development of spoken language.

incorporating

little ears
Paediatric Audiology

little speech
Paediatric Speech Pathology

little minds
Paediatric Psychology

