

NTID PLAY Lab Resource Center for Parents

Welcome to the NTID PLAY Lab Resource Center!

(Note: The resources listed here are meant to provide awareness for families with Deaf/Hard of Hearing children to enhance brain development and growth.)

PLAY Tips:



RIT National Technical Institute for the Deaf
Perception, Language and
Attention in Youth (PLAY) Lab

Play Tips

Maximize Visual Access
Tap your child's shoulder, make eye contact, and pause when introducing new concepts during play

Use Imagination
Turn your pots and pans into a drum set. Drape a sheet over four chairs and "camp out."

Design a large cardboard box into a "Book" castle (cut off the top for light). Read books inside.

Make Sock Puppets
Take a pair of socks and make sock puppets--draw faces on the socks with markers. Put the socks on your feet so you can sign.

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Brainy Facts:

(Follow us on Twitter at @NTIDPLAYLab on Brainy Fridays!)

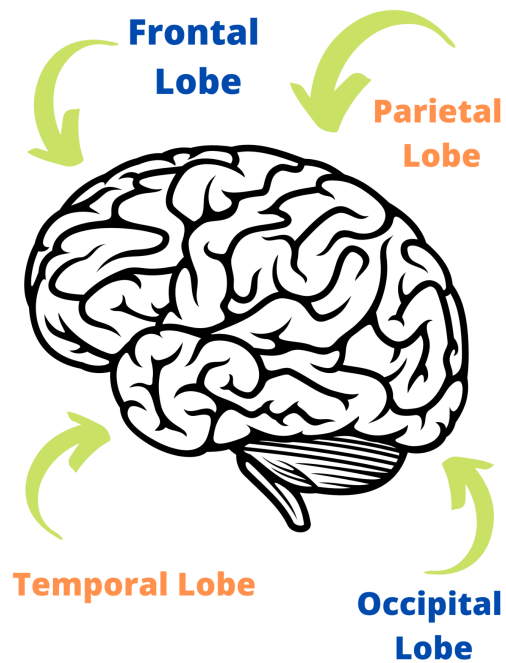
Your brain is your body's "Command Center." All of your thoughts and body actions are powered by your brain.

Humans are the most sophisticated beings on planet earth when it comes to the ability to communicate with one another.

The average brain weighs approximately three pounds. A newborn baby's brain is about 3/4ths of one pound. Source: verywellmind.com.

Your brain's storage capacity is considered virtually unlimited. (Source: Northwestern Medicine.)

A human brain contains roughly 86 billion nerve cells, or neurons. (Source: Brainfacts.org)



Brain Facts

The brain contains most of the neurons it will ever have at birth.

The brain is like a race car--it travels at 268 miles an hour!

The brain is active, even when you are sleeping.

The average brain weighs about 3 pounds.



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Visual Attention and Engagement Tips

Deaf/Hard of hearing babies have varying levels of hearing. Often in a young baby/child, what they can/cannot hear is a guessing game and can differ from situation to situation throughout the day.

Here are some ways to increase visual attention and engagement with your baby:

When walking with your baby in a stroller, stop in intervals and connect together. This process lets your baby know that you are there and provides opportunities to engage in the environment you are walking in. If you stop to talk with someone, position the stroller so that your baby can see you.

If you walk with your baby in a baby carrier in front of you, provide a soft touch to let them know you are there. Pull out a toy and show it to them to engage with them. Depending on your baby's hearing level, they may not be able to hear your voice at all or it may sound distorted—keep this in mind when your baby is facing forward and unable to see you.

Babies love repetition and they learn when presented with something over and over.