

Using assistive technology at home

For parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, creating a supportive home is key. There are many assistive listening devices designed to help your child navigate daily life more easily. Some you might know from school, but they are just as helpful at home. Here are a few devices that can make a big difference.

- **Remote Microphone Technology:** Improves hearing by transmitting the speaker's voice directly to the hearing aid or cochlear implant, reducing background noise.
- **Captions:** Enables understanding of TV shows, movies, and online videos through on-screen text.
- **Headsets:** Wireless or wired headsets provide clearer sound for TV viewing without disturbing others, making it easier to follow along. These may be particularly useful for children with UHL or mild loss.
- **Hearing Loop Systems:** Installed in specific rooms, these systems improve the signal-to-noise ratio by directly transmitting sound to hearing aids with a T-switch (telecoil).
- **Smartphones:** Modern smartphones offer various features like hearing aid compatibility, Bluetooth connectivity, and apps that enhance listening and communication.
- **Vibrating Smartwatches:** Alerts your child to incoming calls, messages, or alarms through vibrations, ensuring they stay connected even in noisy environments.
- **Alerting Devices:** These include alarm clocks, smoke alarms and doorbells. They are louder and come with flashing lights and/or vibrating pads to ensure your child is alerted and encourages independence.
- **Telephone Accessories:** Devices like amplified phones or captioned telephones make conversations clearer and more accessible.

These devices help create an accessible and safe home environment for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, ensuring they remain connected and engaged with daily activities. For personalised advice, see your child's audiologist or an AT mentor.

