



Transforming the lives of children who are deaf and hard of hearing through parent empowerment, professional development, and public awareness around the world.

FIVE STEPS TO CREATING A VOCABULARY TRACKER

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A vocabulary tracking document can help the family of a child who is deaf and hard of hearing and the professionals working with the child plan vocabulary targets and monitor progress. We encourage each family to create a list of vocabulary words that are important in their life. You can create this on the computer (excel or google sheets) or on in a notebook. Think about how you want to share this with the child's team.

1. CHOOSE WORD CATEGORIES

Look at a range of different categories. As included in the MacArthur Bates CDI Words and Gestures, some examples of early word categories to consider are

- Sound effects and animal sounds
- Nouns - People (names of people your child interacts with), Food and Drink, Animals (pet/toy), Clothing, Body Parts, Vehicles (Toys and Real), Furniture and Rooms, Small Household Items
- Action words (verbs)
- Descriptive words (adjectives)
- Locations words (prepositions)
- Pronouns
- Question words
- Words used in routines and games
- Quantifiers
- Words about time

2. WRITE DOWN WORDS FOR EACH CATEGORY

- When choosing vocabulary words as targets take into consideration the family's culture and environment, child's daily routine, home language, age and stage of development of the child.
- If the child needs to know the word for the same concept in two languages, e.g. केला and banana, write them as two separate words.
- What words is the child most likely to hear and encounter through their daily routine?
- What words does the family use for a specific target word? For example,
 - **Aunt** in Hindi could be *chachi*, *bua*, *phuphi* based on relationship
 - **Flatbread** in one family might call it *roti* another family *chapati*
- Are the words culturally and linguistically appropriate to the child's context?
- Are the child's target words appropriate for the child's age and stage of development?



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3. CREATE A RECORD/ FORM

- You can make this form online or on paper or in a notebook. Take into consideration what form of recording information works best for a parent/caregiver to use and share with the professional.
- Create a column to record receptive vocabulary development - words the child understands.
- Create a column to record expressive vocabulary development - words the child says or signs.

4. TRACK PROGRESS (every week or every two weeks)

- As the child demonstrates understanding of the word used in a natural context, make a record on the tracker
- As the child imitates or uses the word spontaneously, make a record on the tracker. Add the date.
- What the child does not understand or use yet, leave it blank

5. ADD NEW VOCABULARY WORDS TO THE TRACKER

- Use the vocabulary tracker as a reference to set new vocabulary goals.
- Consider adding 10-15 words every time in a variety of categories

Example of English-Hindi vocabulary tracker with a few words per category.

Category of word	Vocabulary	Receptive	Expressive	
		Pointing / Choosing	Imitation	Spontaneous
Family Members				
	Nani नानी	Yes (Feb 14)	Yes (Feb 1)	Yes (Feb 14)
	Nana नाना	Yes (Feb 14)	Yes (Feb 1)	Yes (Feb 14)
	Bhaiya भैया	Yes (Feb 14)	“ai-ya” (Feb 14)	
Foods				
	kela केला			
	Banana			
	chawal चावल			
Action Words				
	Go	Yes (Feb 1)		
	Run			
	sona सोना			
Description Words				
	big			
	little			
	peela पीला			