



Dr. Jace Wolfe – Eyes Open, Ears On

Dr. Teresa Caraway: We tell parents and other professionals “eyes open, ears on.” What is that and why is that our motto?

Dr. Jace Wolfe: “Eyes open, ears on” means that when a child's eyes are open, the hearing aids or the cochlear implants should be on and functioning appropriately. There is research that shows that children should use their hearing technology, either their hearing aids or their cochlear implants, at least 10 hours a day. There's specifically research that shows that children who have hearing aids will have better speech and language outcomes if they use their hearing aids at least 10 hours a day compared to those children who use their hearing aids for less than 10 hours a day. Sometimes we say 10 to win. At least 10 hours of hearing aids or cochlear implant use a day, but eyes open, ears on is just as effective.

During all waking hours, you should have your hearing technology on. There's no need to build up hearing aid use across time when they're first fitted. As soon as they're fitted, if they're fitted appropriately, a child should be able to comfortably wear, and really should enjoy wearing their hearing technology during all waking hours.

Dr. Teresa Caraway: Because It's all about growing that little brain, isn't it?

Dr. Jace Wolfe: That's exactly right.

Dr. Teresa Caraway: [crosstalk] For speech and language.

Dr. Jace Wolfe: That's exactly right. Giving access to the auditory areas of the brain to sound. That's going to be what basically serves as the underpinning to develop normal or age appropriate speech and language.

Dr. Teresa Caraway: Yeah, that's terrific, the opportunities today.

Dr. Jace Wolfe: Yeah, no doubt.