


Level Up! Make Listening a Habit and Keep It Going

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Mission of the Atlanta Speech School

To bring deep reading to each and every child so they can find their voice to determine their own future and make the greatest difference in the lives of others.





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Deep Reading Brain Construction

Well beyond proficiency, a *child's deep reading brain* is constructed for **focused, reflective reading, writing, and oral expression**—so they can **understand complexity, think critically, engage curiosity and imagination**, and interact with text to make sense of the world around them. This enables them to **feel empathy, skillfully dialogue and debate, question, develop identity, and actualize their ability to make the greatest difference in the lives of others.**

The highest expectation for each and every child.



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Deep Impact

Atlanta Speech School provides precise, science-driven engagement and instruction based on the sciences of healthy brain and language development and literacy construction for students on campus.


Through its Rollins Center, the Speech School serves as the educational equivalent of a teaching hospital, broadening access to the sciences through coaching and systemic transformation.

Through their Cox Campus, the Rollins Center and Speech School amplify science-backed practices, to democratize language and literacy and reach children and their families and educators anywhere.


Broad Reach



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"Habits reduce cognitive load and free up mental capacity, so you can allocate your attention to other tasks."

"These little choices stack up, each one setting the trajectory for how you spend the next chunk of time."

James Clear, *Atomic Habits*




one hour with a child's speech-language therapist


The 99 hours you can spend with a child practicing language and listening receive your full attention

Doesn't it make sense for the therapist to spend her one hour training you instead?

David Sindrey, M.CLS., LSLS Cert. AVT



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Katherine Hamm Center Habit Cards

- Created in 2017 in partnership with the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Family and Children Services
- 10 key habits for parents, caregivers, and educators to develop when building foundational listening and spoken language skills
- Each card includes:
 - Title and Graphic
 - Brief description of what is involved in the strategy
 - Why it is important
 - On the back: Ideas of what it might look like in action
 - Research citations

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Download a Copy of the Habit Cards



In Partnership with:

- Georgia Mobile Audiology
- Pathways: Language and Literacy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

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10 Habits → 4 Buckets



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Light Up the Brain!

I Hear That!

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Light Up the Brain!



- It's not about the ears. It's about the brain!
- Wear time is crucial
- **Level Up:**
 - Provide more parent/caregiver education on audiology
 - Familiar Sounds Audiogram
 - Ling Sound check
 - Support for wear time

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I Hear That!



- Point out sound in the environment
- Make sound meaningful
- Hear it before you see it
- **Level Up:**
 - "What was that sound?"
 - Familiar sound identification
 - Listening walks
 - Create your own "lift the flap" books

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Tune In 

Talk More 

Wait 

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Tune In 

- Follow your child's lead
- Talk about what interests him/her
- **Level Up:**
 - Provide information on joint attention
 - Discuss Theory of Mind development
 - Build early Executive Function skills

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Talk More 

- Expand and extend your language
- Level Up!
 - Introduce tier 2 vocabulary
 - Narrate (parallel talk)
 - Expand complexity of language
 - Decontextualize language

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Wait! 

- Conversation is not one-sided. It involves turn-taking.
- Give time for your child to process and respond
- **Level Up:**
 - Use auditory closure
 - Extend conversation (Serve & Return)
 - Use adults as models
 - Expectant look

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Aim High 

One Step Ahead 

Make It Easier 

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Aim High 

- Begin with the end in mind
- What is your desired outcome for your child?
- **Level Up:**
 - Visualize the future for your child then back it up
 - What does it take to get there?
 - Revisit over time as circumstances change

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One Step Ahead


- Find the “just right challenge” for your child
- Keep moving forward
- **Level Up:**
 - Listening and language milestones information
 - Scaffolding techniques
 - How to interpret standardized testing



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Make It Easier

- Remove barriers to listening
- **Level Up:**
 - Background noise: "Good and Not So Good Sound"
 - Acoustic Highlighting
 - Use auditory sandwich
 - Closed set of choices
 - Provide clues
 - Move closer
 - Remote mic technology



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Sing!



Read!





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Sing!


- Singing helps with rhythm, rhyme, auditory memory, and engagement.
- Child-directed speech helps the child to learn.
- **Level Up:**
 - Use "parentese"
 - Transition songs in a classroom
 - Use familiar songs or nursery rhymes
 - Make up your own songs
 - Phonological awareness (rhyming)



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Read!

- Reading aloud increases vocabulary exposure
- Reading promotes language learning and conversation
- **Level Up:**
 - Use TIPS and START strategies (available on Cox Campus)
 - "PAT" the vocabulary
 - Include non-fiction for knowledge building
 - Make experience books
 - Read Aloud Handbook (Trelease)
 - Read Alouds for All Readers (Ness)




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10 Habits → 4 Buckets

By making listening a habit and leveling up, you will keep the learning going to build strong listening and language skills for the child's future.

Fill the buckets to create a strong foundation for a deep reading brain!



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Questions?

Contact us:
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