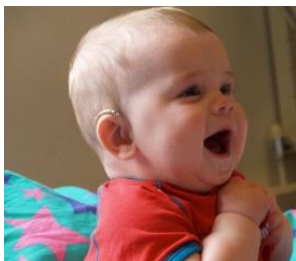




deaf education through
listening and talking

DELTA :-Deaf Education through Listening and Talking

DELTA, Deaf Education through Listening and Talking, is a voluntary association of deaf people, families, teachers of the deaf, educational audiologists and other professionals involved with deaf children both in the Health Service and Education. DELTA is a national charity which supports families who wish to bring their child up using a **Natural Aural Approach** and practitioners who wish to develop their understanding of and practice in the approach further. **It actively promotes the use of natural auralism** in enabling children, whatever their degree of hearing loss, to achieve their potential in all educational contexts.



The Natural Aural Approach

DELTA believes that children who are deaf are first and foremost children and their basic needs do not differ from those of other children. A child's deafness does not change these basic needs, but to fulfil these the family need specialist support and guidance regarding the implications and management of hearing loss. Such support helps parents to build on their natural parenting skills to ensure the child's physical, social and emotional, learning and development needs are met.

The Natural Aural Approach seeks to allow children who are deaf to access, enjoy, and benefit from, normal childhood learning experiences within the family and the family's community and culture whilst managing their deafness.

Sounds Simple Makes Sense Offers Choices Provides Opportunities

BUT. . .

It requires:

- detailed knowledge and understanding of language development and the conditions that support it

- effective fitting of and efficient daily management of the most appropriate audiological equipment for the individual child
- appropriate in-school support including skilling up of staff so that appropriate strategies to support access and active involvement in all areas of the curriculum are in place
- detailed knowledge and understanding of how the child's listening and linguistic levels intertwine with effective development of literacy and numeracy and curricular understandings
- joined up planning by all that enables next steps targets to be consistently delivered.



DELTA Supports Families

DELTA firstly supports families in their understanding of the Natural Aural approach and helps them to maximize the opportunities that arise in their day to day interactions. The DELTA Summer Schools and weekend workshops famously support families to be themselves, utilize their natural skills and reach the high expectations that they would have had for their children, had they not been deaf. It provides ongoing support through on-line support, additional weekend and day workshops nationally and at family request locally.

DELTA Supports Young Deaf Adults

DELTA has a thriving young adult support group. This group of deaf and hearing young adults, socialize together and volunteer together, supporting the next generation of deaf children. They provide mutual support, sharing examples of how they have approached different situations through their own dedicated facebook page and through discrete weekends such as '@transition weekends', where they share experiences of changing schools or moving onto to further and higher education.

They are actively involved at the DELTA Summer Schools and can be found speaking for themselves at DELTA events and associated events where there is a need to 'talk the talk'. Many of these

young people came to DELTA, with their families firstly as babies, toddlers or school age children. They enjoy telling their stories as they want to encourage other families to see the potential in their own children, who can listen talk and inevitably achieve.

DELTA's Chair of Trustees, Andy Stubbs was once one of these young deaf children.



DELTA Supports Professionals

Teachers; Audiologists; Speech and Language Therapists; Teachers of the Deaf; Teachers of the Deaf in Training; Teaching Assistants; Educational Audiologists; Health Visitors and other professionals and practitioners involved with Deaf children and their families are all supported through DELTA's literature, workshops and contribution to or organization of conferences. We offer a tailored workshop to all courses training teachers of the deaf.

DELTA OFFERS BESPOKE COURSES NATIONWIDE TO SUIT LOCAL AUTHORITY, REGIONAL, SCHOOL OR INDIVIDUAL TEACHER REQUIREMENTS

Much of this work is co-produced and delivered with families and young people to enable a deeper understanding and securer practice

- in the Natural Aural approach and the essential practices that underpin this. This includes extending professional skills in key areas such as promoting and monitoring thinking, language and listening skills and monitoring the effectiveness of hearing aid fitting
- in working in partnership with families from early identification and through the early years
- in supporting teachers of the deaf in training and in the workplace to work in partnership with parents and professionals to realize the potential of the deaf child and improve their practice
- in understanding the use of assessment materials in monitoring development, including the Monitoring Protocol for Deaf Babies and Children and its associated materials. Assessment and tracking has a very high profile within this approach whether in early years or school years. All materials used should enable families as well as professionals to identify need, support the next steps and celebrate development and achievement

- in enabling schools to use teaching strategies and equipment well, to support the development of independent learning skills so that the deaf child has similar access to their hearing peers and makes at least as good progress as them
- in supporting health professionals and Audiologists to work with families and Teachers of the deaf so that hearing aids/cochlear implants/ BAHAs are appropriately set up, regularly reviewed and maintained and meet individual need effectively.
- in the use of auxiliary equipment such as soundfield or radio systems, so that children have optimal access in the home, school or workplace
- in supporting transition from Pre-school to Primary and Primary to Secondary and on to Further and Higher Education, including continuity of support and effective multi-agency working and information sharing to support this



DELTA will be running courses and workshops near you:- Tailor-made for Parents and Professionals in Health & Education

Courses we have delivered include:-

- Securing listening skills from the beginning – listening, learning and thinking within a Natural Aural approach. This included assessing and monitoring progress.
- Reading and writing within a natural aural approach; securing higher order reading and writing skills.

- Understanding the Natural Aural approach and what this looks like in the classroom: including equipment use and management; classroom strategies; home-school links and joint agency working.
- Learning to listen and Listening to learn.
- Working together to enable your child to achieve. Joint workshops and forums for Practitioners and Parents across the age and stage.
- Moving on to secondary school; transition workshops for parents, pupils and professionals
- Non-negotiables within a natural aural approach: what needs to be in every child's support package and how to monitor it is delivered.
- Speaking out for yourself. Workshops for young people to recognise their strengths, develop their personal skills and have confidence in their ability to listen, talk and achieve.
- Communication and Technology beyond school - enhancing a deaf person's life in the workplace, home and community.

WE HAVE THE SKILLS AND EXPERTISE TO PROVIDE COURSES THAT MAKE IT WORK FOR PROFESSIONALS, PRACTITIONERS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

– get in touch



***Put in your diary* :Pre-school and Primary Summer Schools 2016
University of Worcester 28th – 31st July**

"DELTA is a unique resource for parents such as us it is likely to make a vast difference to our ability to support our child to the best." *Summer School family*

"Attending a DELTA workshop and listening to parents and young people has improved my practice and outcomes for the children I work with. Deaf children can and should be listening and talking as they learn. The Natural Aural approach is an inclusive approach and Teachers of the deaf can make a difference ." *Teacher of the deaf*

Please visit our website and contact DELTA :

Tel: 0300 365 7200 or email

enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk to secure a course in your area.



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