

Auditory Hook

Use vocal inflection—like a surprised “wow,” “uh-oh,” or audible gasp—to capture your child’s attention through listening before gesturing.

How does it work?



Auditory hooks are words or phrases that grab your child’s attention and encourage them to listen because something exciting is about to happen.

Why do we do it?



Hearing the “hook” engages the listening part of the brain and encourages auditory attention.



Pairing auditory hooks with exciting information or surprises helps your child learn that listening is important.

Examples:



Before showing a fun page, make an excited exclamation like “Oh my!” to draw your child’s attention to the words.



Before opening a box, show surprise with a gasp or exclamation and wait for your child’s attention before revealing what’s inside.