

# Definition of an AV Treatment Plan

## **An Auditory-Verbal treatment plan supports:**

- Early detection programs and initiation of Auditory-Verbal instruction upon diagnosis of the hearing loss, except in the rare case of absent or bone-filled cochleas.
- Prognosis for speech development and for the use of the hearing sense for language learning is not made at the time of diagnosis. Instead, progress throughout the course of therapy and home training are the indicators of the child's prognosis for developing oral communication.
- The earliest possible fitting and consistent use of appropriate hearing aids and well fitting ear molds. Children have been fitted with hearing aids in the first months of life.
- A parent-caretaker centered approach. Therapy and parent training capitalize on the natural parent-child bond for the development of interaction and communication between family members and the hearing-impaired child.
- Individualized therapy. Sessions with children in the clinic focus on the education of the parents to foster successful implementation of the home program.
- Speech development through the child's hearing sense. Children learn to match their speech sounds to those made by their parents and therapist.
- The development of spoken language for communication. Sign language is not used in the Auditory-Verbal approach.
- Teaching children to process language through the habitual and maximal use of residual hearing. Children's hearing aids and FM systems become their link to the hearing-speaking world.
- Teaching children to function independently in as normal a learning and living environment as possible. Mainstreaming recommended for the hearing-impaired child's education and socialization.

*(Adapted from the AVI definition of an Auditory-Verbal Clinician which was prepared by the Auditory-Verbal Network Inc.)*

We recognize the role of informed consumers in maintaining high standards of practice in Auditory-Verbal programs and offer these guidelines.

Original material:

### **A Parent's Guide To Auditory-Verbal Therapy.**

The Auditory-Verbal Network Inc. Denver, CO. 1988. Adapted for use by the Talk Center For Hearing-impaired Children.