

Current and future trends in technology: The impact on supporting D/HH children and their families.

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Abstract:

It is no secret that we live in a technological age! Children being born now will have access to technology that we haven't even thought possible only a few years ago.

What does this mean for the parent or carer of a child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing? What does this mean for those of us working in a professional capacity with the family to meet the unique needs of the child who is D/HH in a range of contexts?

How do we make sense of the technology that surrounds us and leverage its powerful capabilities to link us to other parents and professionals worldwide?

What are some of the traps that we need to be careful of in our formal and informal networks? How do we develop our skills in being able to critically analyse the wide range of resources (and opinions) that attempt to guide us to be able to inform our choices in a range of areas as a parent/carer of a child who is D/HH? How can we as professionals support the family to develop these skills, and further develop our own skills in this area?

We will explore these questions and many more as we delve into the exciting world of technology and Assistive Technology and deafness. During our time together we will also look at some of the current trends in technology that will likely impact us in the field in some shape or form.