

Language Deprivation and Kindergarten Readiness

Presentation to the Children's Cabinet

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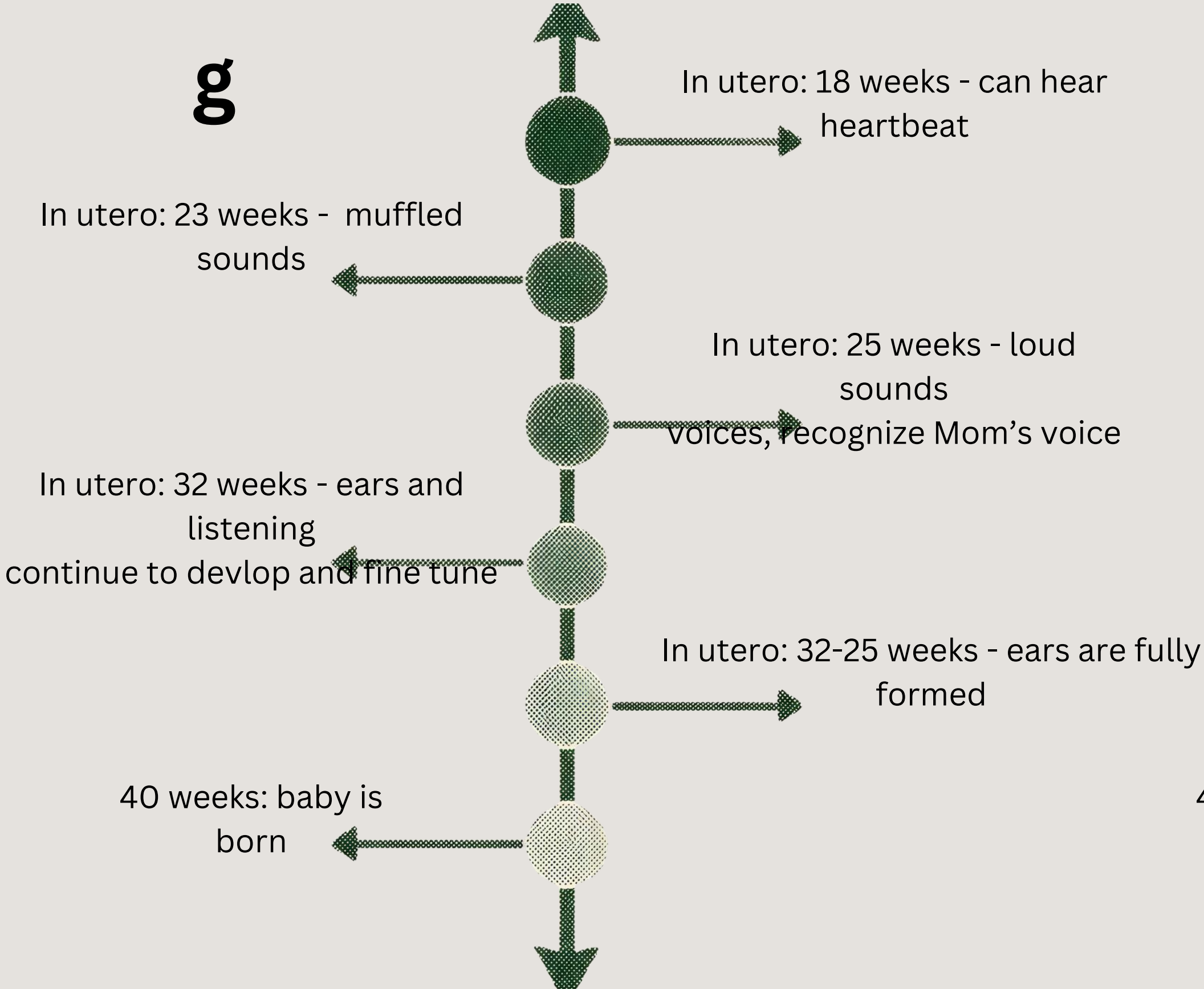
Hearing Timeline in the Womb

- 18 Weeks: The inner ear develops, and the fetus can detect internal sounds like the mother's heartbeat, breathing, and digestion.
- 23–24 Weeks: External sounds from the outside world become audible, though they are muffled by tissue and amniotic fluid.
- 25–26 Weeks: The fetus begins responding to loud noises, music, and voices with changes in movement or heart rate, and starts recognizing the mother's voice.
- 32–35 Weeks: The ear structures are fully formed, and hearing continues to fine-tune until birth. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

Full term babies hear sounds
over half of the time
they are in the womb!

Hearin

g



Dea

f





Universal Newborn Hearing Screening

Joint Commission on Infant Hearing



Core Standards: The 1-3-6 Model

The JCIH promotes the 1-3-6 timeline for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs:

- 1 Month: Hearing screening by 1 month of age.
- 3 Months: Comprehensive audiological evaluation by 3 months for those not passing the screen.
- 6 Months: Enrollment in early intervention services by 6 months for confirmed hearing loss.



Hearing Screening Legislation in States for Newborn Hearing Screening Mandates

- 28 states require newborn hearing screening (NBHS)
- 43 states and DC have legislation or regulatory frameworks
- Remaining states use target percentages, guidelines, voluntary systems
- ND does not mandate NBHS; however, most hospitals do the testing

Challenges..

- Screening training
- Screening inconsistencies
- Equipment not working
- Language used with parents
 - Pass/Refer
 - Pass/Fail
- Too many screens
- Minimizing the effect of “not passing” the hearing screening
- A lot of information at birth
- Relying on new parents to follow up with pediatric audiological assessment



- Medically fragile babies
- Language barriers
- Travel barriers
- Limited access to Pediatric Audiologists (5 in ND - Minot(2), Fargo, Bismarck, Grand Forks)
- Insurance regulations
- Multiple trips to major cities
- Limited access to trained Teachers of the Deaf and Speech Language Pathologists



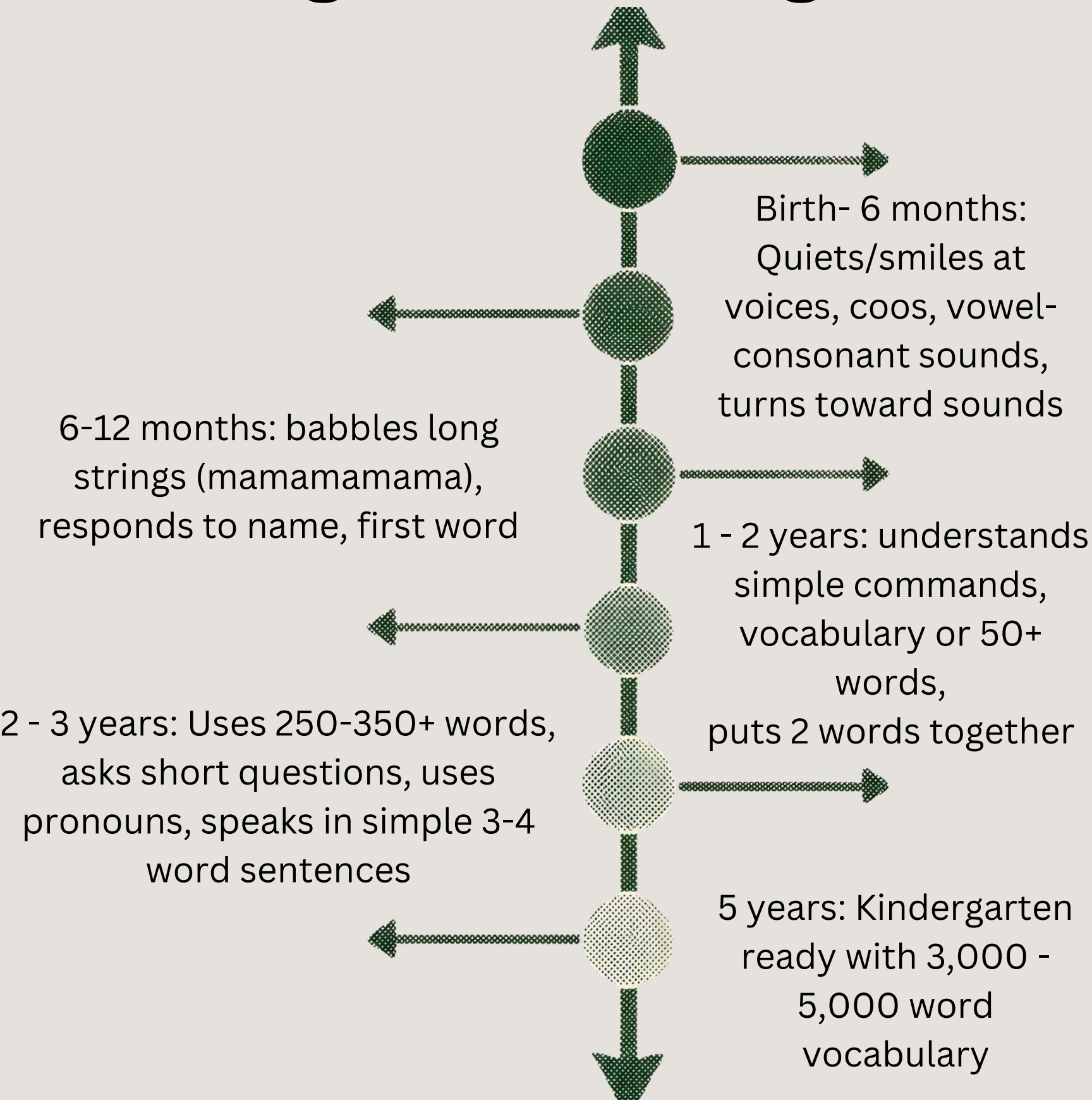
Above: LEAF
Below: MOON



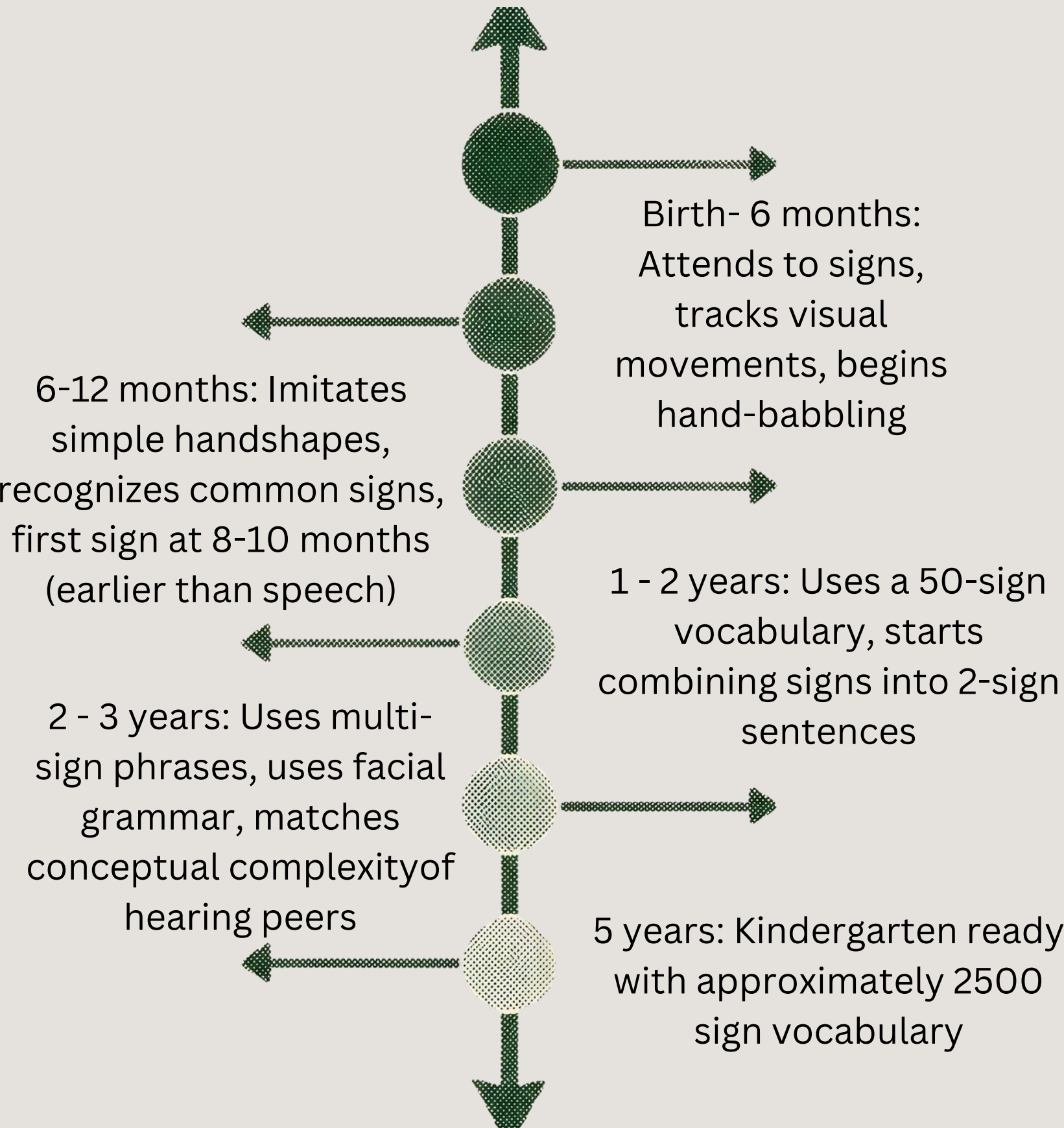
**Deaf and
Hard of
Hearing
babies use
their eyes
for learning
language.
Hearing
babies use
their ears.**



Hearing with Hearing Parents



Deaf with Deaf Parents



Babies and hearing aids:

- Keeping them on
- Are they working
- Batteries
- Headbands
- Teaching/Modeling learning to listen
- Grabby hands pulling them out
- Losing them - they are tiny
- Tiny mouths





**There are certain
criteria to meet to
qualify for a
cochlear implant**

**Doctors in the US
will implant as early
as 1 year, 1 day old.**

100% Access means...

1. Hearing Technologies are worn and working properly and no sinus or middle ear infections



1. Children have access to specialized interventions that help them make sense of the sounds they do hear
1. Language is Visual and they are watching!

Hearing babies hear **ALL THE**

TIME



Deaf babies “hear” when...



Remember this slide?

1. Hearing Technologies are worn and working properly and no sinus or middle ear infections



1. Children have access to specialized interventions that help them make sense of the sounds they do hear
1. Language is Visual and they are watching!



What does this mean?



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Babies

- Do they have access to hearing technologies?
- Do the hearing technologies work?
- Can the family make it to the audiologist for programming, reprogramming, and repairs?
- Can the family afford the batteries?
- Can the family keep equipment charged and ready?
- Does the family have access to professionals who can help them learn appropriate strategies for interacting?

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Babies

- Does the family want to learn ASL?
- Does the family recognize factors that should lead them to learn ASL?
- Does the family have the means to learn ASL?
- What about extended family members?
- Does the family know any Deaf adults?
- Does the family have access to unbiased information about communication choices?
- Is the child meeting language milestones (in spoken language or sign language) and if not, does the family have access to further interventions?



LEAD-K



LEAD-K stands for Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids, a national grassroots campaign dedicated to ending language deprivation and ensuring that deaf and hard-of-hearing (D/HH) children achieve kindergarten language readiness by age five. [1, 2, 3]

LEAD-K

Legislation

Active State Teams: There are currently 30+ states with active LEAD-K National Campaign State Teams advocating to introduce new bills or push stalled bills through their local committees.

Federal Pushes: According to updates from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) and the National LEAD-K team, advocates are actively drafting a federal version of the bill to mandate language milestone tracking across all 50 states.



**Sign Language is the only language that is
100% accessible all the time.**



“Listen” to Deaf

Adults



[Deaf Grandma signs to baby. Watch what happens!](#)

Reference

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