

Auditory Verbal Therapy

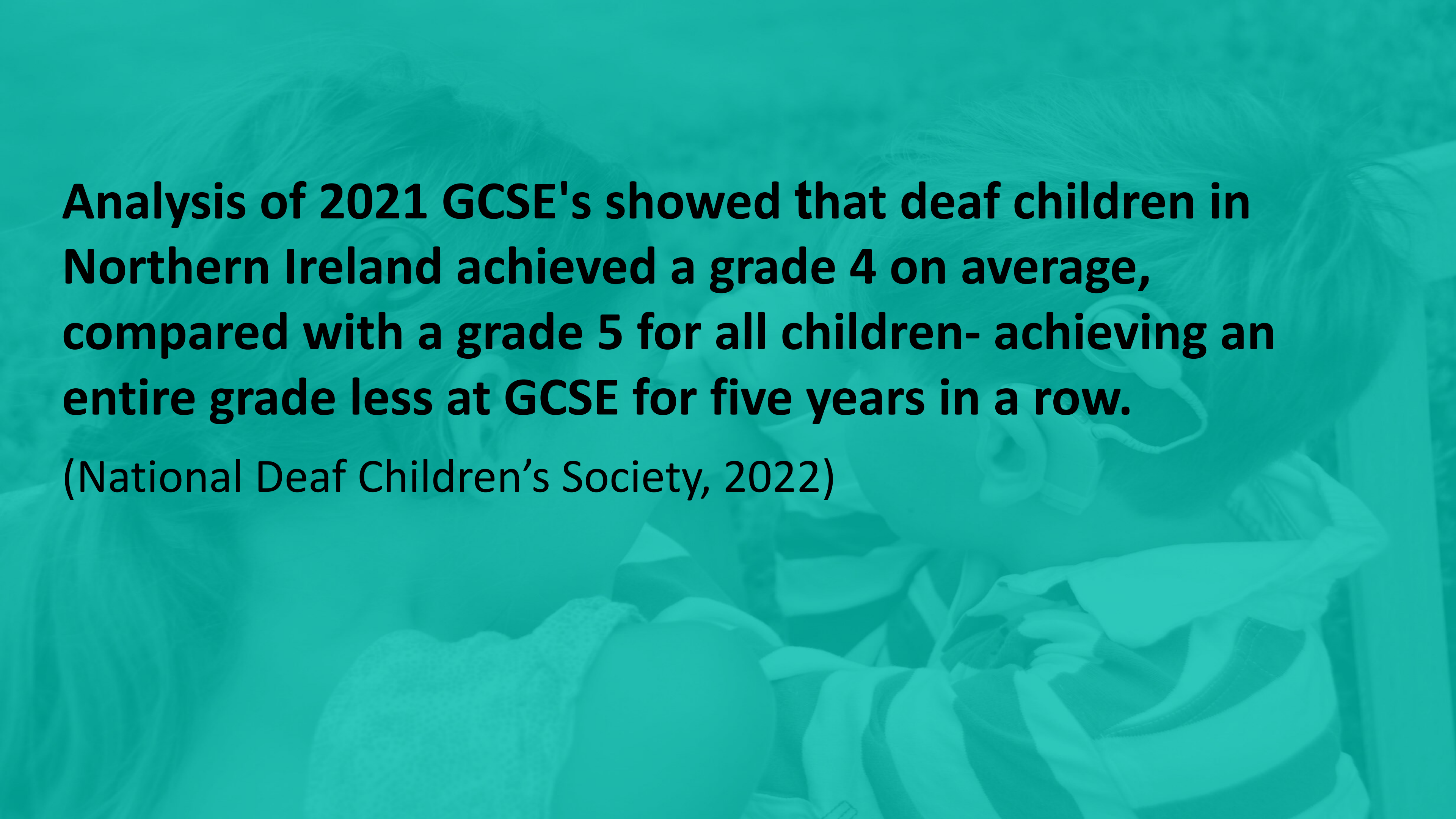
Frances Clark, Clinical Lead

To discuss Today

- ▲ **What is Auditory Verbal Therapy?**
- ▲ **How does it fit into current support?**
- ▲ **How effective is Auditory Verbal Therapy?**
- ▲ **What is needed for families to access AVT?**



Our vision is that all deaf children have the best start in life and flourish at school and beyond.

A group of children in a classroom setting, with a teal overlay. The children are looking towards the camera, and some are wearing headphones. The text is overlaid on the image.

Analysis of 2021 GCSE's showed that deaf children in Northern Ireland achieved a grade 4 on average, compared with a grade 5 for all children- achieving an entire grade less at GCSE for five years in a row.

(National Deaf Children's Society, 2022)



All deaf children should have access to **early and effective support to develop language and communication**, whether they use sign language, spoken language, or both.

Challenging expectations for deaf children

Only



33%

of adults in Northern Ireland believed it is possible for a child born profoundly deaf today to learn to speak as well as a hearing child



UK and international evidence base

(Hitchins, & Hogan, 2018)



80%

Of all deaf children who spend at least two years on an Auditory Verbal therapy programme achieve age-appropriate spoken language.



97%

Of deaf children without additional needs who spend at least two years on an Auditory Verbal therapy programme achieve age-appropriate spoken language.

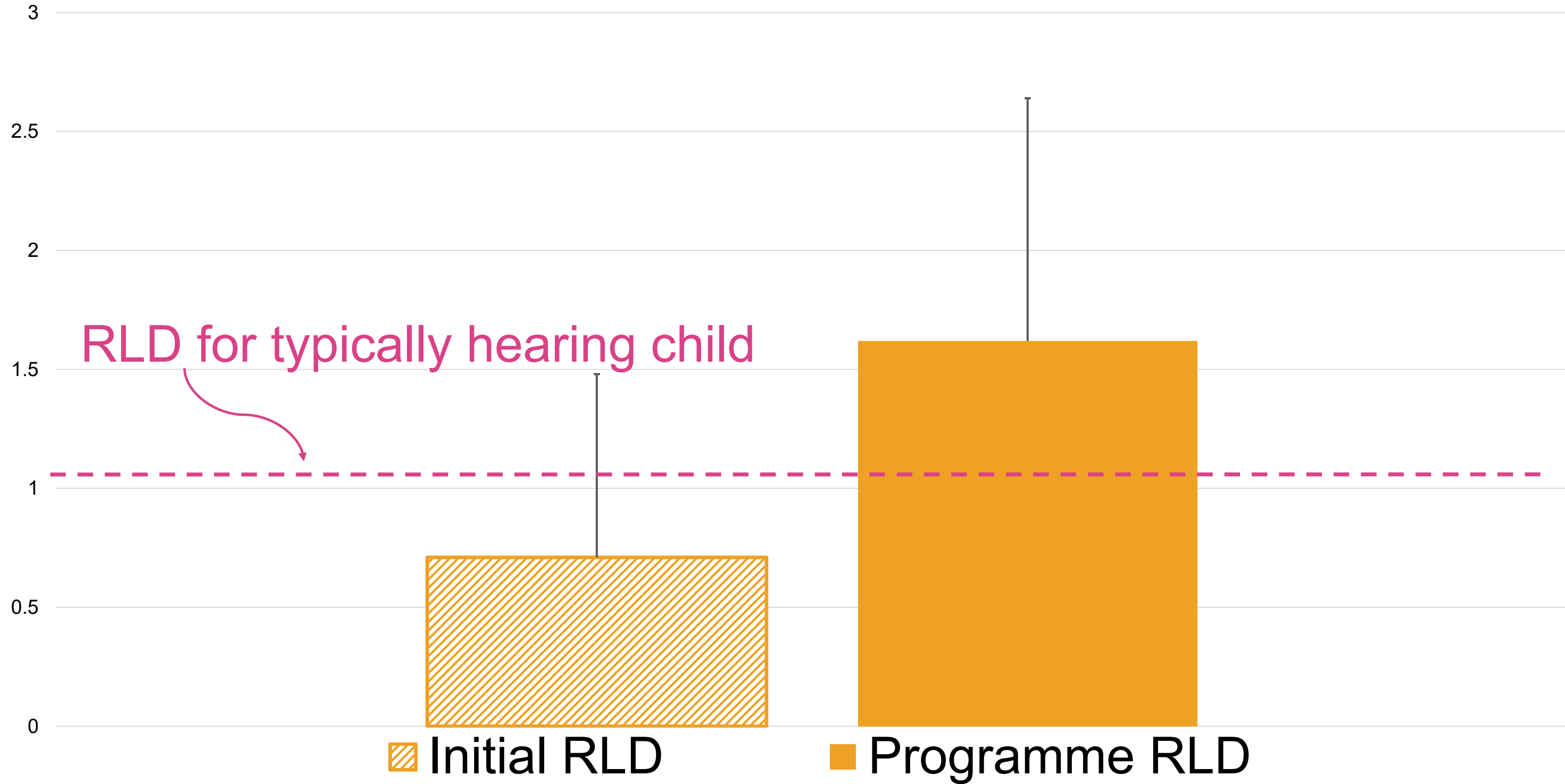
1 in 2



deaf children with additional and complex needs reach at least age-appropriate spoken language

Initial and AV programme RLDs

Rate of Language Development
(RLD)

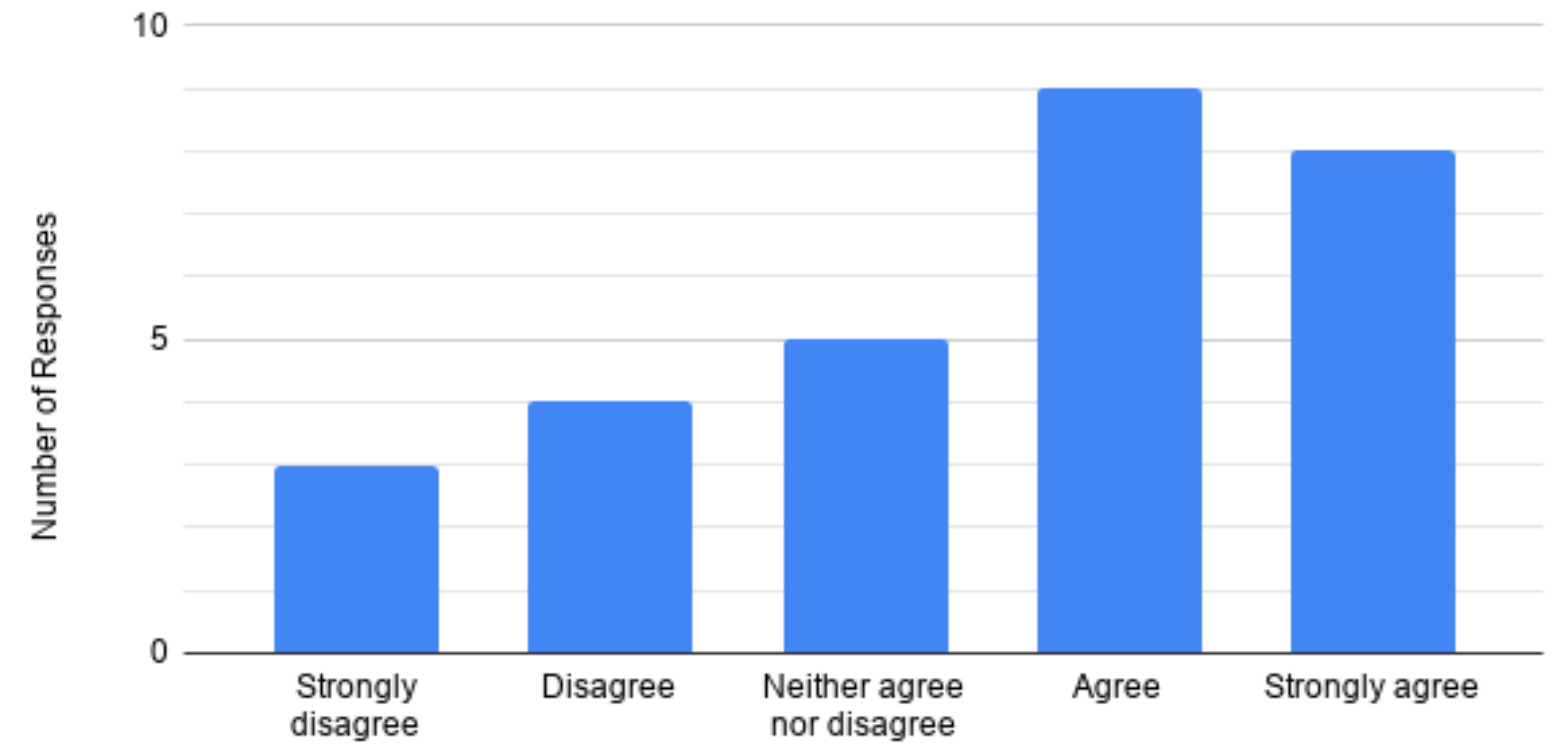


- AVUK (2016) (2018),
United Kingdom
- First Voice (2015),
Australia & New Zealand
- Percy-Smith, L et al
(2017), Demark
- Hogan et al (2010),
United Kingdom

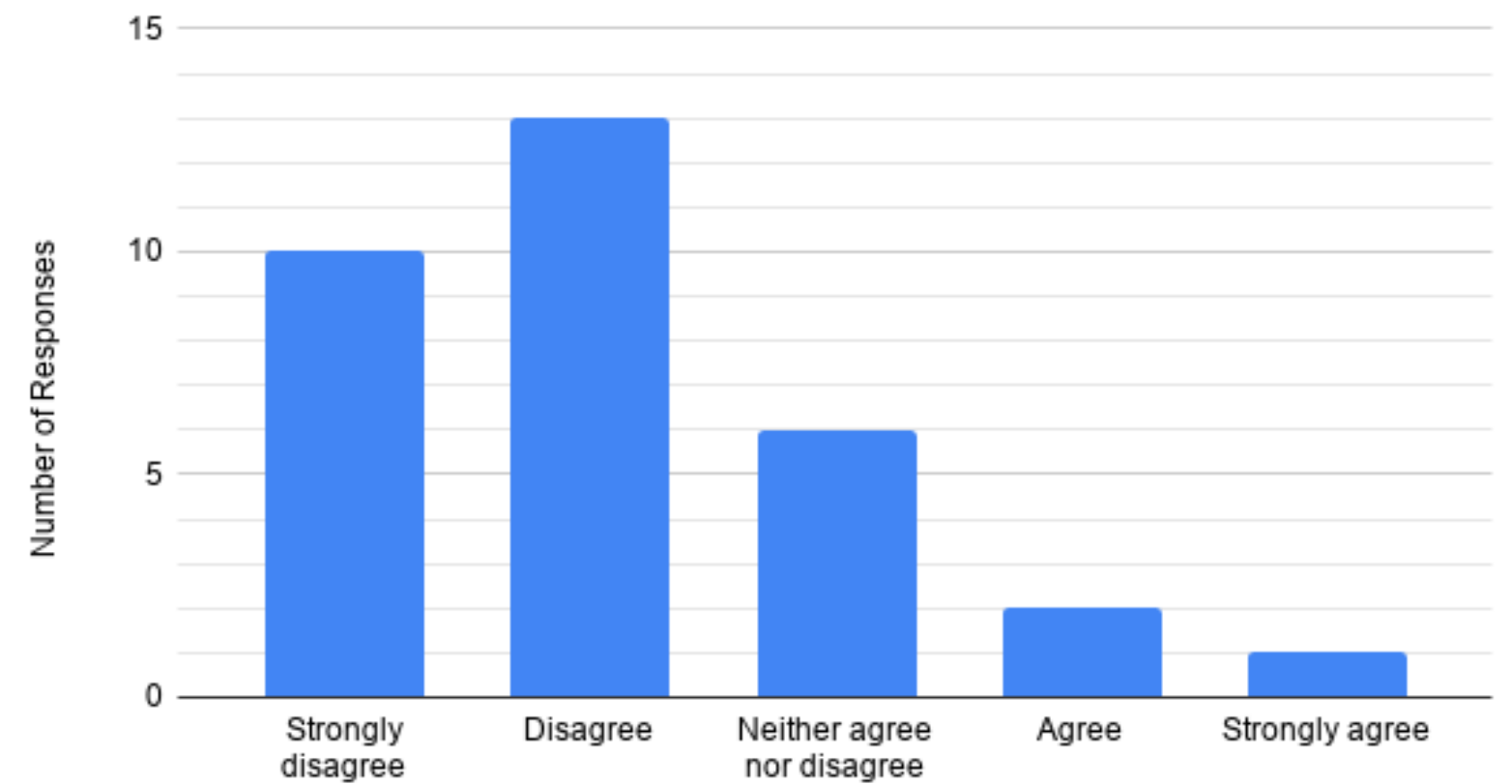




Prior to lockdown, I was unsure of the effectiveness of teletherapy.



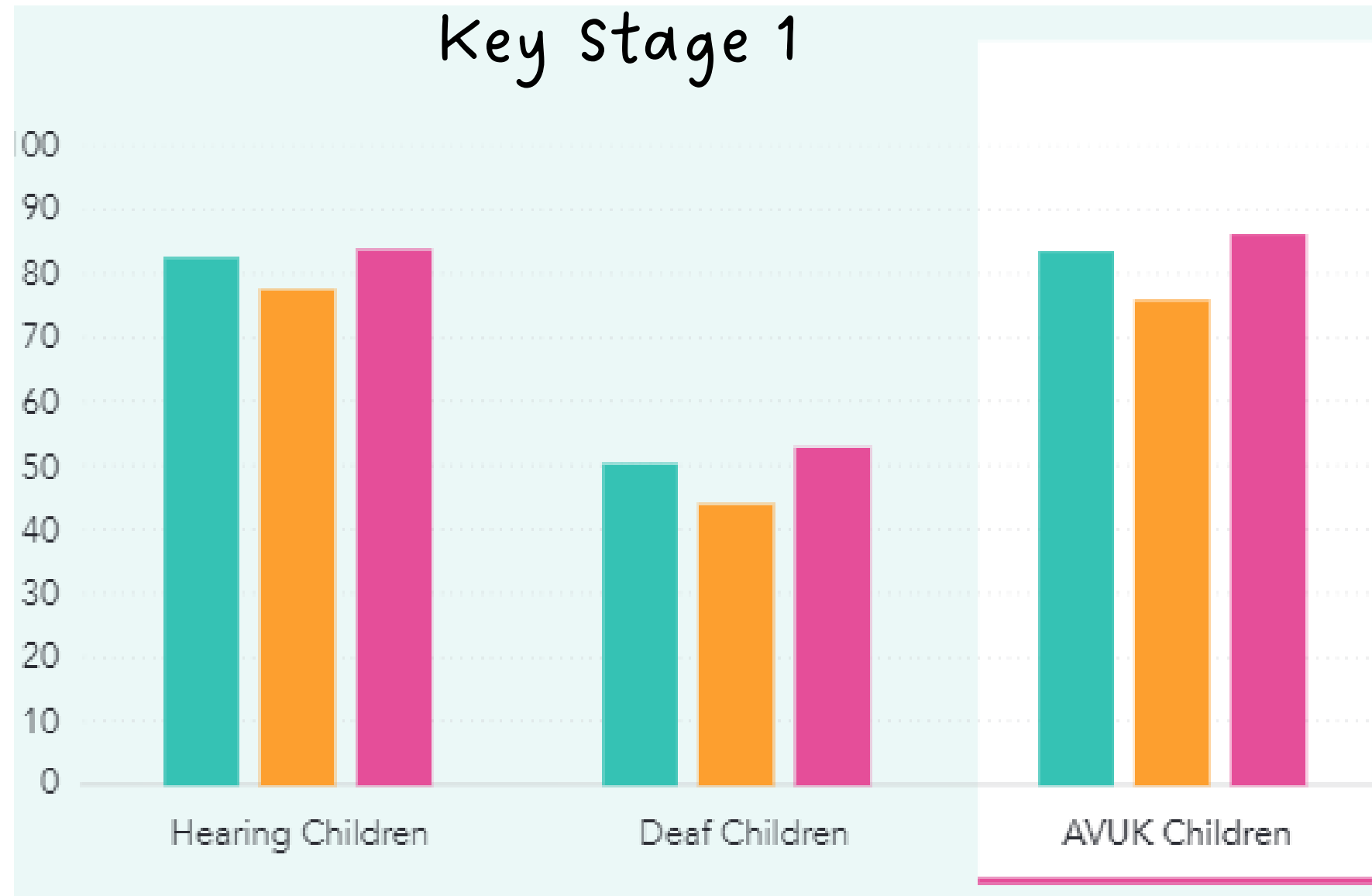
I am now unsure of the effectiveness of teletherapy.



(ASHA Perspectives, 2021)

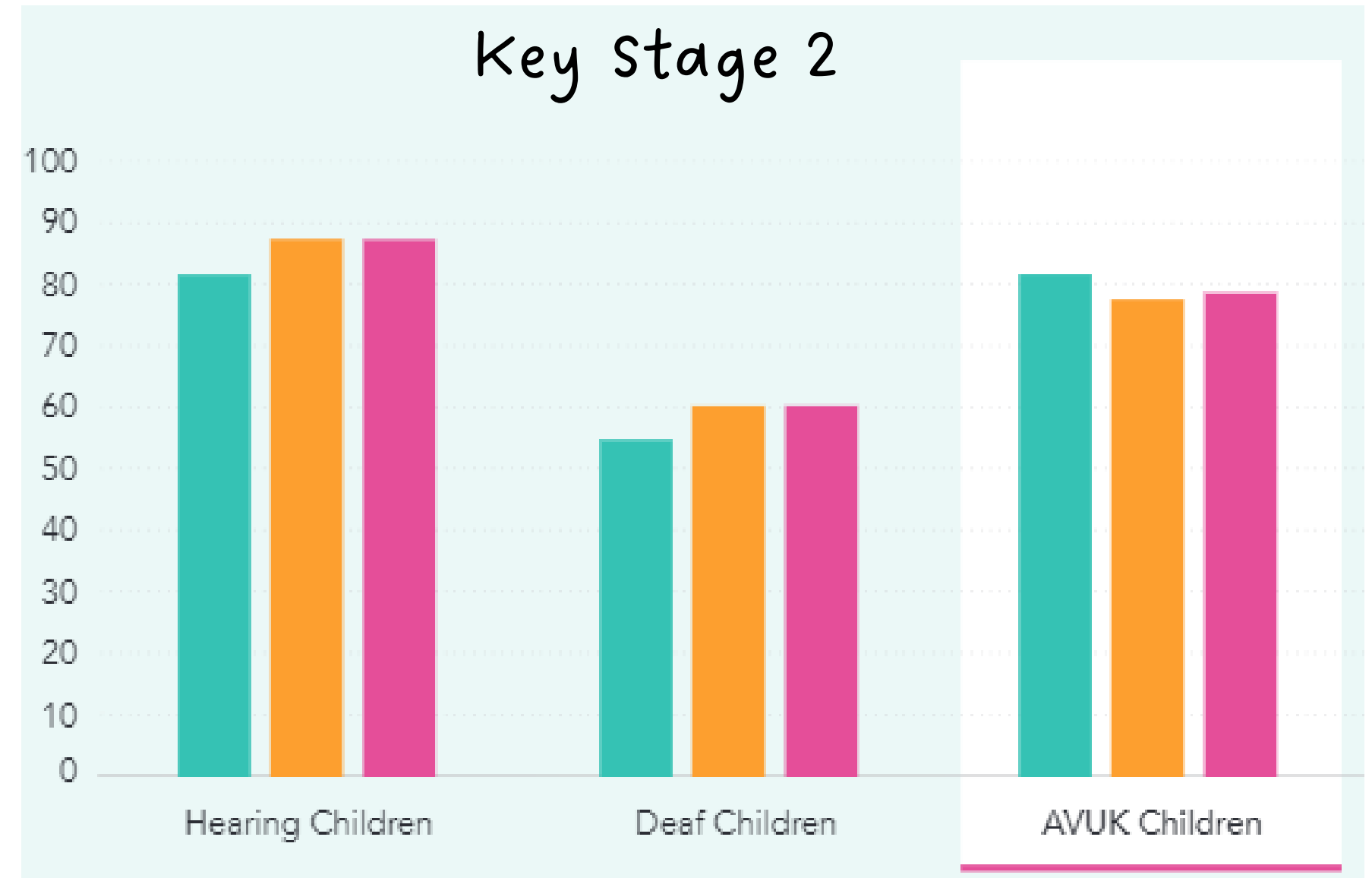
Literacy Outcomes

Key Stage 1



National attainment data from 2019

Key Stage 2



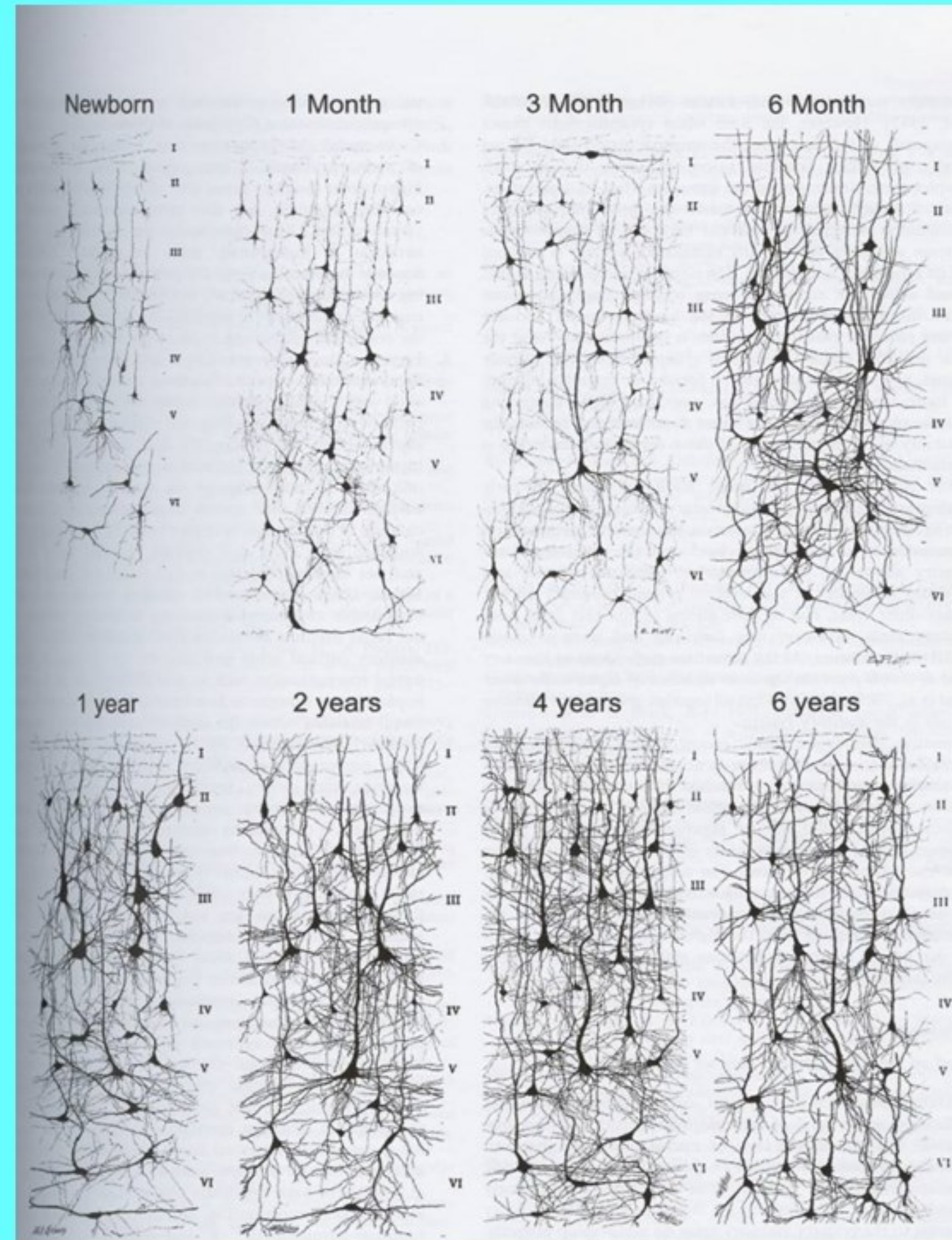
National attainment data from 2019

Reading

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling

Mathematics

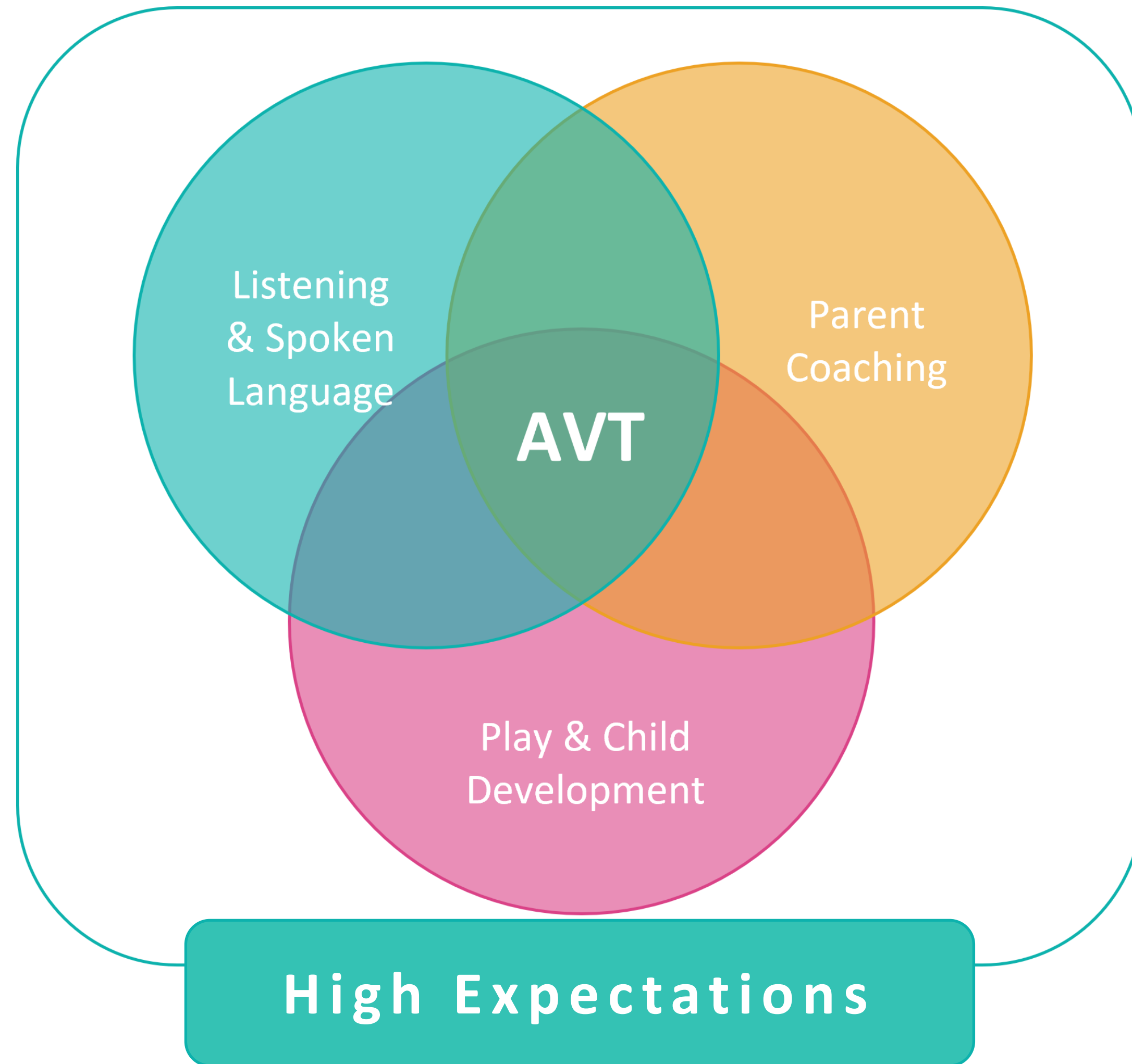
- Neuroplasticity is greatest in the first 3½ years
- 20 weeks before birth
- Use it or lose it!



Listening

A “brief sensitive period” for auditory stimulation

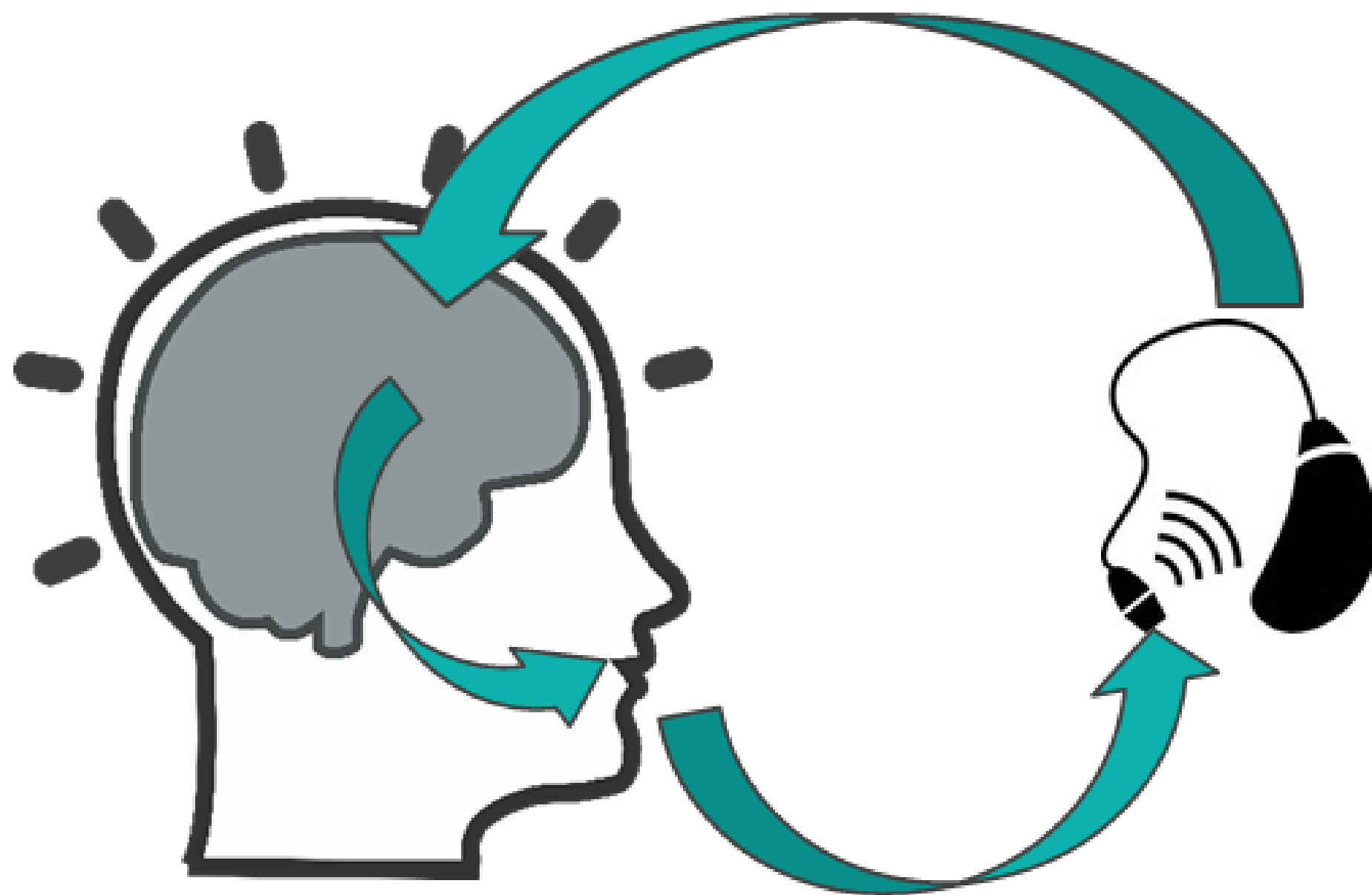
(Sharma et al. 2015)



Key Elements of AV Therapy

Hearing technology

That gives the best access to
speech



Auditory Verbal UK

Ensure that every deaf child can access AVT close to where they live

Training

UK Charity that provides Auditory Verbal Family Programme



Inequality of access to Auditory Verbal therapy

Only around



10%

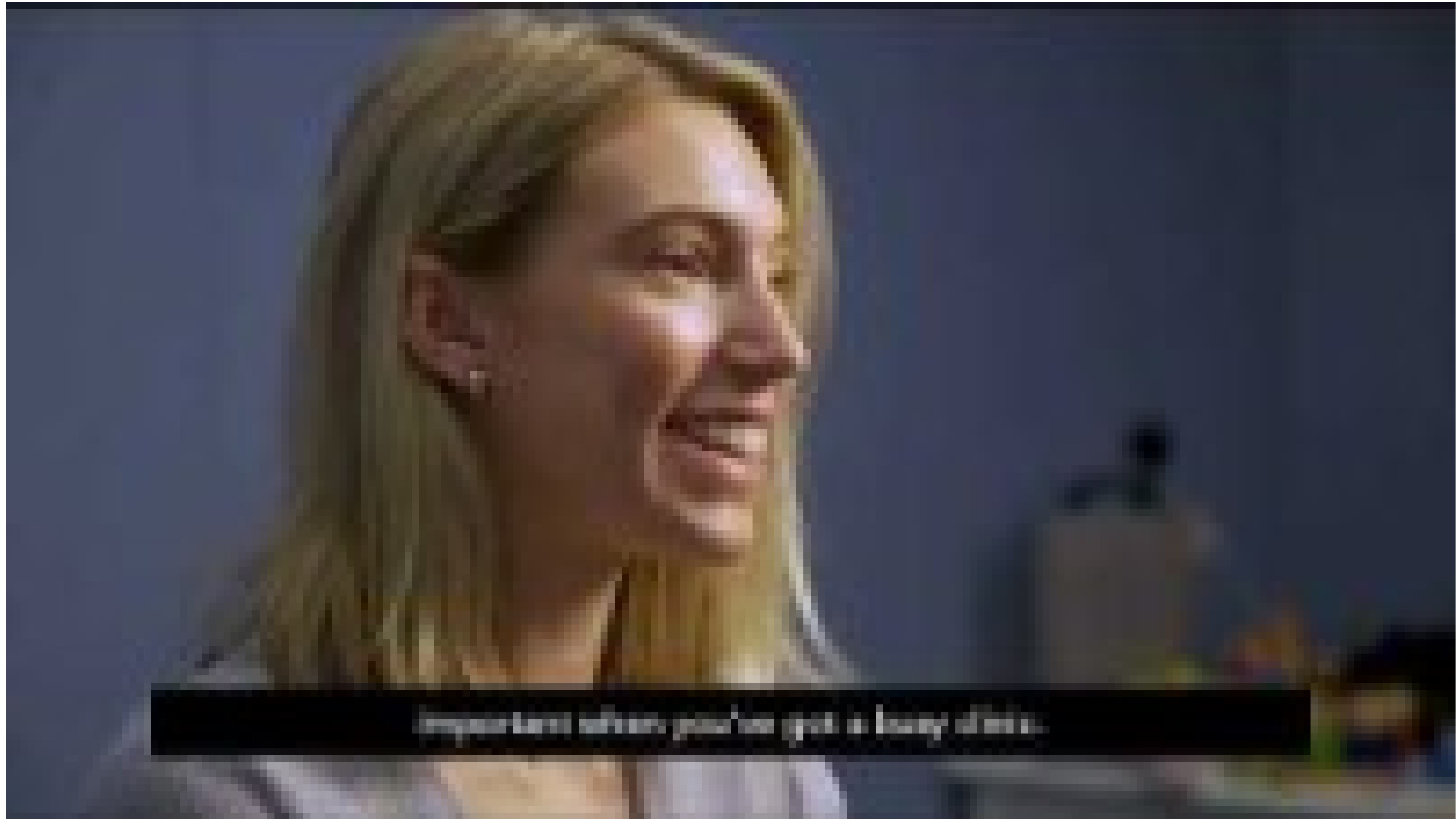
Of deaf children in Northern Ireland have the opportunity to access this specialist support

There is currently



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Certified Auditory Verbal Therapists working in local services



important when you've got a heavy lift.

How do we enable families in
Northern Ireland to access
Auditory Verbal therapy through
local services?

Any questions for us?



AUDITORY VERBAL^{UK}

Creating a sound future for deaf children



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Auditory VerbalUK

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Auditory Verbal UK is the operating name of the Auditory Verbal Centre