

Tips for Teachers of Students with Hearing Loss

How You Can Help: The Teacher

Hearing aid and cochlear implant technologies do wonders, but there are still some accommodations needed to help students with hearing loss achieve their full potential in the classroom.

Understand/Get to Know Your Student

Recognize His/Her Unique Needs

Each student will have personal preferences when it comes to maximizing hearing and ensuring optimal communication. We suggest a private meeting with the parents and the student (approx. ages 12 and up) to try to find some common ground where you can help be an advocate for him/her.

Facilitate Communication in the Classroom

- **Keep Background Noise to a Minimum**
Please do not open windows, allow side conversations, run the pencil sharpener, turn on loud electric fans/AC units, move chairs around, etc. while class is in session.
- **Enunciate Your Words**
Speak naturally without exaggerated lip movements; be clear and easy to understand.
- **Address the Child by Name**
This will help your student with a hearing loss know you are speaking to him/her.
- **Repeat the Question**
Many times when a student asks a question, other students cannot hear what was asked. Repeating the question will help all students understand the answer.
- **Project Your Voice When Far Away**
This will help not only your student who is hard of hearing, but the whole class.

Other Things You Can Do

- **Give Your Student a Written Copy of Notes**
Providing an outline of the lesson will allow the student to listen to all of the important points you make. If this cannot be done, help your student obtain notes from a classmate who takes quality notes.
- **Check In**
Create a signal with your student who is hard of hearing to use to be sure he/she understands the instructions. It is also advised that you ask other students if they have heard/understood the directions to avoid always singling out the child with hearing loss.
- **Turn on Closed Captioning When Playing Videos in Class**
This will help your student with a hearing loss better understand the video.
- **Learn to Easily Operate the FM System**
Your student may be self-conscious about the FM system, or any other assistive listening devices used in the classroom. It would be ideal for you to conduct a trial run with your student before class.

DID YOU KNOW?

A mild hearing loss can cause a child to miss as much as 50% of classroom discussion.

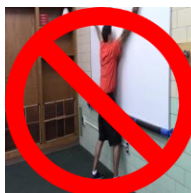
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Face the board
as you speak



Chew gum as you
talk to students



Single out students
with hearing loss



**Please
do not:**