

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

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. Try to avoid opening windows, leaving the classroom door open, or running the pencil sharpener during class instruction.
- Speak naturally without exaggerated lip movements.
- Address the student by name to help your student with a hearing loss know you are speaking to him/her.
- Repeat the questions asked by other students to allow the student with hearing loss another opportunity to hear the question by a more prominent voice.
- 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.
- Create a signal with your student who is hard of hearing to use to be sure he/she understands the instructions.
- Turn on closed captioning when playing videos in class.
- 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 to avoid bringing too much attention to the device in front of other students.

