

High Frequency Hearing Loss

What does this mean?

- The child or young person (CYP) will find accessing the high frequency speech sounds – s, f, th more challenging.
- CYP with a high frequency hearing loss may sometimes be issued with a hearing aid and may use a radio aid to help them fully access these sounds.

Implications for learning

The CYP may:

- Hear quite well in one-to-one situations but listening in a busy environment and higher levels of background noise can be more challenging.
- Not access the 's' sound clearly. The 's' sound has grammatical functions in English and therefore pupils may miss off the plural or possessive 's' in their speech, or in their writing.
- Mishear language, in particular the pronunciation of new words.
- Find learning incidentally much harder. Overhearing is important in vocabulary and grammar development.
- Be vulnerable to underachieving. They can miss or mishear up to 50% of what is said in the classroom.
- Have delayed language / a limited vocabulary
- Have greater difficulty concentrating and become more tired than their hearing peers
- May find social interactions challenging, e.g. break times.



Ways to help

- CYP should sit at the front and to the side of the classroom with a clear view of the board and the teacher's face. CYP should sit next to a good role model.
- Keep the background noise to a minimum, e.g. close doors and windows and switch off unnecessary equipment.
- Speak clearly, naturally, at a normal pace, facing the CYP. Ensure your face is not in shadow.
- Do not move around the room when speaking.
- Get the CYPs attention before speaking.
- Repeat questions and contributions of other pupils to ensure they have been heard clearly.
- Use careful questioning to ensure the CYPs understanding.
- Rephrase rather than repeat statements if they are misunderstood.
- Reinforce new / key vocabulary visually, e.g. writing on the board, using pictures and artefacts.
- Provide opportunities to work outside the classroom for group work.
- Ensure the CYP is using their hearing aids (if issued) consistently and effectively.
- Always use subtitles on videos (check accuracy).
- Check CYP's writing for the incorrect grammatical use of 's', and if needed be explicit when using this in your speech.



Other resources

www.berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk
www.ndcs.org.uk

Related Sheets:
Hearing aids
Room Acoustics