

Mild Hearing Loss

What does this mean?

- The child or young person (CYP) will find accessing the quieter sounds of speech more challenging
- It may sound like wearing ear plugs all day
- CYP with a mild hearing loss may sometimes be issued with a hearing aid

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.
- Find learning incidentally much harder. Overhearing is important in vocabulary and grammar development.
- Be vulnerable to underachieving. They can miss up to 50% of what is said in the classroom.
- Have delayed language / a limited vocabulary
- miss or mishear language
- 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). Ensure discussion does not take place with the lights off.



Other resources

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

Related Sheets:
Hearing aids
Room Acoustics