

## Unilateral Hearing Loss

This means that only one ear is affected.

The hearing loss can range from mild to profound in the affected ear.

### Implications for learning

The majority of Children/Young People (CYP) with unilateral deafness manage very well in a hearing environment. However, there are some situations where they may find it difficult to hear well enough. They may experience difficulty:

- hearing sounds on the side with the ear with the hearing loss
- locating the source of the sound
- understanding speech in background noise
- with concentration, tiredness and dizziness

### Ways to help

- Make sure the CYP can see the teacher easily, usually at the front of the class, with the ear with hearing directed towards the teacher/peer and next to a good role model
- Keep background noise to a minimum. 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 CYP's attention before speaking
- Repeat questions and contributions of other pupils to ensure they have been heard clearly
- Use careful questioning to ensure the CYP's understanding
- Rephrase rather than repeat statements if they are misunderstood
- Give the CYP plenty of time to respond to what you say
- 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 aid, if used, consistently and effectively
- Always use subtitles on videos (check accuracy first) and ensure that discussion does not take place with the lights off

#### Other resources

[www.berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk](http://www.berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk)

[www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)

#### Related Sheets

Hearing aids

Room acoustics