

## Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder ANSD

### What does this mean?

- A child / young person (CYP) with ANSD has a hearing loss in which sound may travel normally through the middle ear and cochlea but may not transmit normally from the cochlea or through the auditory nerve.
- ANSD affects the child's ability to process sounds. The CYP will hear something but it may be distorted.
- It is a spectrum disorder as the impact can range from little or no difficulty hearing and understanding through to being functionally deaf.
- Every individual with ANSD is affected differently and it is not possible to predict the outcomes for the child.

### Implications for learning

The CYP may:

- Be able to hear what is being said but not understand it, particularly in background noise.
- Have good days and bad days with their hearing
- Be vulnerable to underachievement
- Have delayed language development
- Use visual communication e.g. sign language
- Not be fitted with hearing aids
- Be fitted with hearing aids or cochlear implants

### 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. Use soft furnishings to reduce echoes.
- 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 / cochlear implants (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](http://www.berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk)  
[www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)

### Related Sheets

Hearing aids  
Cochlear Implants