

Tips for Teachers of Preschool 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.



Connect to Life®

**Dana Selznick, M.A.,
M.Ed**

**Director of the Education
and Family Programming
Center
(917) 305-7855
Dselznick@chchearing.org**

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

Facilitate Communication in the Classroom

- *Keep Background Noise to a Minimum:* Please try not open windows, allow side conversations, run water from the sinks, turn on loud electric fans/AC units, play background music, move chairs around, etc. while class is in session.
- *Enunciate Your Words:* Speak naturally without exaggerated lip movements.
- *Address the Child by Name:* This will help your student with a hearing loss know you are speaking to him/her.
- *Repeat the Question:* Many times when a student asks a question, other students cannot hear what was asked. Repeating the question will help all students understand the answer.
- *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

- *Report Help Information to the Parents:* If you notice your student with hearing loss asking “what” or needing more repetition than usual, report this information to the parent as the child may need reprogramming of their listing device.
- *Help Build Self Advocacy:* Encourage your student to explain their hearing loss to their friends. Allow them to answer questions if other students ask what is on their ears. Assist your student by repeating the question to the student and saying “Go ahead you can tell them.. What’s on your ears? How does it help you?”
- *Learn to Properly Operate the FM System:* Misuse of the FM prevents a child from hearing his/her peers. Only turn on/use the microphone during group instruction or when you are directing information to the child with hearing loss.
- *Help Facilitate Free Play:* Free play is typically a noisy time period in a preschool classroom. Your student with hearing loss may need your help in facilitating play with their peers.

