

Classroom Suggestions: Suggestions for Teachers with Students with Hearing Losses

- Students with milder hearing losses may hear the teacher but may not clearly understand the message.
- Assistance with listening devices may be needed. If a device is not working properly, the student may appear to be not listening or ignoring directions.
- Students with a unilateral loss will hear well in one ear and not the other. They may be accused of hearing only that they want to hear. Teachers should make sure they are speaking to a student's better ear.
- Students may turn in their seats frequently to gain better hearing, especially if the teacher is moving or speaking at a distance.
- Students with fluctuating hearing losses may be unaware, as may be the teacher, that hearing is not optimal at any given time. Students may be perceived as having good and bad days academically or behaviorally when they are actually experiencing good hearing days and days with hearing loss. These students may appear inattentive, distractible, or immature because they may not have learned to pay attention to sounds.
- Students from the Deaf culture can vary considerably in their understanding of sound and spoken language. Those who have Deaf parents may not learn that sound matters in many situations. An example would be the teacher's use of tone of voice for classroom management.
- Students who are deaf or hard of hearing are a very heterogeneous group, and what works well for one student may not work for another.

Source: Easterbrooks, S. (1999). Improving practices for students with hearing impairments. *Exceptional Children*, 65, 537-554.