



Date: _____ These suggestions are helpful for _____

Audiologist: _____

Audiologist Contact Information: _____

It may be difficult to notice that a child has high-frequency hearing loss. This is because under ideal listening conditions, children with high-frequency hearing loss can “hear”, but they often miss important parts of speech. There are certain listening situations which can be difficult:

- **Hearing in the presence of background noise:** Children with high-frequency hearing loss may have more difficulty understanding speech in noise than their normal-hearing peers. The difficulty may be exacerbated if the speaker is located far away from the child.
- **Hearing certain word distinctions:** Children with high-frequency hearing loss may have more difficulty hearing the consonant sounds, which include sounds that denote tense, plurality, possessives, etc. This becomes much more difficult when background noise is present. This can be particularly challenging for children, as they are still learning language and cannot fill in those missing pieces of speech as well as an adult can.
- **Listening at the end of the day:** Children with high-frequency hearing loss typically experience increased fatigue due to the increased listening effort needed to perform at the same level in listening tasks as their normal-hearing peers. You may notice that you child is especially tired at the end of the day. Understand that your child may need time to rest after school before beginning school assignments or participating in other activities.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT OF HIGH-FREQUENCY HEARING LOSS

Studies of children with high-frequency hearing loss have indicated that students with this type of hearing loss are affected to a greater degree by background noise than their normal-hearing peers. These students may appear as inattentive or distractible due to difficulties understanding speech in noise. Lunch and recess can be very noisy, which can lead to social problems if a child is unable to hear or misinterprets information during those situations. Speech production and articulation may also be affected with this type of hearing loss. It is vital for children with high-frequency hearing loss to have a consistent support system in place at school as well as at home.

HELPING THE CHILD WITH HIGH-FREQUENCY HEARING LOSS AT SCHOOL

The suggestions below can help your student in the school setting, in conjunction with recommendations from the Audiologist. There are many strategies to ensure this student has appropriate access to classroom material. The child's academic progress should be monitored closely, and suspected problems addressed quickly.

- A Teacher of the Deaf (TOD) or educational audiologist added to the student's service plan or 504.
- The student should be seated close to where the teacher does most of the instruction. Allow the student to sit a little off-center in the room to allow him/her to more easily turn and look at classmates who are speaking.
- Avoid seating the student near sources of noise or distraction like the door to the hallway, ventilation system, or next to a very active student.
- Consider adding environmental modifications to reduce the amount of noise and reverberation such as carpeting, caps to chair legs, closing window shades/curtains, or adding noise absorbing panels to different portions of class walls. A TOD or educational audiologist can assist with specific recommendations and/or modifications.
- Encourage the student to ask for repetition as needed and move his/her seat for special activities to the best position for listening.
- During spelling tests, ensure that the student heard all parts of the word being tested, including possessive endings, plural endings, etc. This can be done by providing the word in a sentence to provide context cues. Should this loss be very significant, the student may need alternative testing.
- Gain the student's attention prior to speaking directly to that student or covering pertinent/vital information.
- During class discussion, call on other students by name and by pointing to allow the student to "tune in" to the new talker.
- Provide materials to the student in writing when possible.
- Consider giving the student information ahead of time for pre-studying.
- Encourage the student to explain the hearing issue to friends in a natural fashion. Help the student realize that everyone has to ask "what?" often!
- Technology such as an FM system or sound field amplification system may be recommended by the Audiologist. Using this system, the teacher wears a microphone which transmits his/her voice to receivers on the student's ears or to speakers in the classroom. This helps improve the student's ability to hear the teacher's voice clearly and consistently.
- FM systems and hearing aids do not restore a child's hearing to normal like eyeglasses do for vision. Even with hearing aids and/or an FM system, a hard-of-hearing student needs all of the above accommodations.
- ***Please be aware*** that some children are extremely embarrassed or self-conscious about wearing an FM system or being singled out in any way. Be careful to not draw attention to the device or single out the student in any way.

With permission, please do not hesitate to contact your student's audiologist with any questions!