



Hearing Advice for Parents



1. ACCEPTANCE OF HEARING LOSS

The most important role of the family is to accept your child's hearing loss and to continue living as a family. Your child's Itinerant Teacher, Deaf & Hard of Hearing, in consultation with you; may add this to your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Others who can help with this are: Your child's clinical audiologist and members of the DHH Joint Team: Social Worker, Speech-Language Pathologist, Psychologist, Intake Teachers, and Educational audiologist.

Possible Discussion Topics for Families

Basic implications of hearing loss

Basic function of all hearing devices worn by your child

Appropriate use of hearing instruments and hearing assistance technology

Expectations: benefits and limitations of hearing devices

Importance of daily listening checks & basic troubleshooting

What to do if there is a malfunction

Advocacy for your child

2. FULL-TIME HEARING AID USAGE

Your child needs to use their personal amplification, every day, all day and that means at least **12 hours a day**. Your child's potential is limited if their hearing aids or cochlear implants are worn for less time. For example: Wearing hearing aids during the school day 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. only:

6 hours = only 50 % of their possible hearing time
12 hours

A child's learning does not stop at the end of the school day; in fact, learning from school is solidified during those after school hours, weekends and holidays. Strategies to help achieve this goal may be included in your child's IEP.



3. SEE THE AUDIOLOGIST

Your child needs to see the audiologist every 6 months or every 3 months for students with bilateral cochlear implants. This will ensure that hearing levels are monitored and student amplification devices are providing the best sound possible for listening and learning. Please send copies of the audiogram to the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Department (Fax 416-397-6351).

4. HEARING ASSISTANCE TECHNOLOGY AT SCHOOL

Your child will benefit from Hearing Assistance Technology in the classroom. Hearing Assistance Technology is carefully prescribed for each student by the TCDSB Audiologist.

In order to ensure that the system is working well, a monitoring plan may be put into place. The plan may include:

- Who will monitor the system?
- When and where the system will be monitored?
- How to monitor its performance?
- What to do if the system fails?



5. SEE THE HEARING AID DISPENSER

Please see your child's Hearing Aid Dispenser twice a year. This will ensure that earmolds fit well, you are well supplied with batteries and that hearing instruments are free of cracks or corrosion.

Should your child require permanently attached audio shoes for their hearing assistance technology, please ask your Hearing Aid Dispenser to add/remove the audio shoes provided by our school Board.

6. NEW HEARING INSTRUMENTS

Your child's personal amplification will change regularly, as hearing technology advances. Deaf & Hard of Hearing asks that you inform us as soon as possible, when there will be a change in your child's hearing aids or cochlear implant. You may send information to Maureen Burke (maureen.burke@tcdsb.org).

7. READ WITH YOUR CHILD

There are many benefits to reading with your child. Reading aloud improves your child's:

1. Audition
2. Comprehension
3. Language
4. Attention



Show your love and read everyday!!

Maureen Burke, TCDSB Audiologist,
Deaf & Hard of Hearing