



Implications of Hearing Loss

The potential implications of hearing loss in children will vary, however, most hard of hearing children will have difficulty in the following areas:

- **Language and vocabulary delays** - may not know common words, idioms, expressions, syntax, may omit word endings
- **Phonological awareness** - identifying, blending and separating individual phonemes in words
- **Difficulty reasoning** - cause/effect, judgements, inferences - due to lack of language experiences
- **Auditory memory problems** – may need visual as well as oral instructions and directions
- **Lack of background knowledge** – due to limited ‘incidental’ learning

Other information to consider when working with students with hearing loss

- Hearing aids/cochlear implants do not restore normal hearing. Students may not be able to hear all the sounds of speech even when the speaker is close by
- The student will almost always miss some of what is said if there is ANY background noise
- The student must be within 3 feet of the speaker to perceive speech. Further away will be heard but not all parts of speech will be perceived
- The increased effort spent listening leaves few cognitive resources available for processing and understanding. Your student with hearing loss may need ‘listening breaks’ to prevent auditory fatigue