



Unilateral Hearing Loss

Possible Speech and Language Impact

- Child can 'hear' but can have difficulty understanding in certain situations, especially if poor ear facing speaker, in background noise or at a distance greater than 3 ft
- Will typically have difficulty localizing sounds and voices using hearing alone
- Will have greater difficulty understanding speech when environment is noisy, reverberant
- Difficulty following group discussions

Possible Social Emotional Impact

- Social problems may arise as child experiences difficulty understanding in noisy cooperative learning or recess situations
- May misconstrue peer conversations
- May be more fatigued in classroom due to greater effort to listen
- May appear inattentive or distracted
- May feel isolated or lonely as may miss information or not be able to follow all class discussion
- May experience feelings of low self-esteem as feel different from peers

Accommodations

- Allow child to change seat locations to allow child to direct better ear to primary speaker and away from sources of noise
- Typically will benefit from a soundfield system in the classroom
- Provide a quiet environment and a quiet space for group work
- Identify students who are being called on so hard of hearing student has time to visually locate them
- Repeat student comments and questions
- Use visual aids and put key instructions and concepts on board. Summarize and repeat important ideas
- A talking stick in group work can help the hard of student follow the discussion as it allows for one speaker at a time and provides a visual cue as to who is talking