



In the Classroom

Tips for Improving Auditory Access for Children with Cochlear Implants/Hearing Aids

Use FM Appropriately

These systems help students hear the teacher better by overcoming the negative effects of distance, thereby making the teacher's voice louder than background noise. Proper use of the system will decrease a student's listening fatigue, leaving more energy for learning. Remember:

- Only use the FM during large group instructions. **Always** turn the transmitter **off** when having personal discussions with other students in the classroom.
- Wear the microphone 8 inches or closer to the mouth, and make sure it is not rubbing on any clothing.

Reduce Classroom Noise¹

Even with use of an FM system, a noisy classroom will make it difficult for children using cochlear implants or hearing aids hear friends during one on one or small group interactions, because these systems bring up the volume of all the sound around them. To keep noise levels down, try:

- Closing the classroom door
- Use cork or felt pads to reduce noise from opening and closing
- Use cork boards to cover walls and as places to post updates, artwork, etc.

Be in Sight²

Visual cues (lip movements, hand gestures, facial expressions) communicate more than just sounds and words on the lips, but also emotion and context, which serve to increase comprehension. Consider:

- Staying within the student's visual range
- Always facing forward when talking
- Grabbing the student's attention before speaking like saying "Okay guys ..."

Point out Distracting Sounds¹

Since it can be difficult for hard of hearing students to distinguish where a sound comes from, pointing out distracting sounds can help a student recognize it and be able to ignore it. You may need to call attention to:

- Heating/ventilation systems
- Traffic noise
- Hallway noise

For More Information visit:

www.cochlear.com/HOPE

Nucleus Cochlear Implant Educators Guide, Chapter 5
Hope Tips: Time for school – Tips for Teachers

www.classroomacoustics.com



Sources

1. Source: Mariloy W. Neault, Ph.D., Children's Hospital, Boston, MA
From Chapter 5, Nucleus Cochlear Implant Educators Guide www.cochlear.com/H
2. http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/treatment/child_aur_rehab.htm

Auditory Outreach