

Date: _____ These suggestions are helpful for _____

Audiologist: _____

Audiologist Contact Information: _____

This student is experiencing a hearing loss commonly associated with middle ear problems. The hearing loss probably fluctuates and may resolve with medical treatment. In the meantime, this student is at risk for missing or mishearing information in the classroom. Be aware that a child with this type of hearing loss may appear as if he/she is not paying attention or not following instructions. He/she will require special attention to overcome the “muffling” of sounds from this hearing loss. Until a repeat hearing test shows that this hearing loss has resolved, please use the communication strategies below to support access to spoken language.

- Seat the student close to where the teacher does the majority of the instruction and away from any obvious sources of noise or distraction.
- Get the student’s visual attention before talking to him/her or to the class. Encourage the student to look at your face when you are speaking.
- Speak to the student at close range using clear speech and a well-projected voice. It is not necessary to shout.
- When the student says “huh?” or “what?” repeat or rephrase what has been said. Remember that the student may not be hearing the instructions clearly and encourage the child to ask for repetition as needed.
- Move closer to the student rather than trying to communicate from a distance.
- Show the student what you mean using a visual example when possible.
- The student will likely miss or mishear comments and questions from other students in the class. It is helpful for the teacher to repeat the question or comment to the entire class, so the student can have access to all parts of the discussion.
- Check the student’s understanding of spoken instructions before the child begins individual or group work.
- Help the student keep a sense of humor about “miscommunications” that arise and reinforce that everyone mishears sometimes!
- If this loss is longstanding, technology such as an FM system or sound field amplification system may be recommended by the audiologist. The teacher wears a microphone which transmits his/her voice to receivers on the child’s ears or to speakers in the classroom. This improves the student’s ability to hear the teacher’s voice clearly and consistently.

With the parent’s permission, please do not hesitate to contact the child’s Audiologist with any questions!