

## **What is available to support hearing/listening?**

There is a wide range of technology to support this area of academics. Students who have a primary diagnosis in this area (e.g. Deaf/Hard of Hearing) will likely receive equipment they need from an Audiologist or Hearing Aid Specialist. Many tools are available in the classroom as well from providing supporting visuals, providing captioning and transcripts, and more which integrate nicely as an individual solution or as universal design to support a classroom.

## **What types of students might benefit?**

Hearing and Listening supports go beyond the Deaf and hard of hearing population. While you may have a student using a hearing aid or cochlear implant you may also have a student who has a diagnosis of Auditory Processing Disorder, ADHD, or a receptive language disorder who may benefit from certain technologies and tools.

## **How does it help?**

Tools for hearing and listening can either augment sound (make it louder or help cancel background noise), or can provide another means to understand what is being said (closed captioning, providing written transcripts etc.).

## **Who can be a support on your team?**

Hearing Itinerant, Speech Pathologist, School Psychologist, IEP Team, Student, Parent

## **Hearing/Listening skills to consider:**

- Follow verbal directions
- Listen to stories and answer questions
- Listen to classroom discussion and apply information
- Listen to teacher lecture and apply information
- Listen to verbally presented information and retell with correct sequencing and facts Listen to videos to gather information about current instructional topics
- Respond to environmental stimuli appropriately (someone knocking on classroom door, bell ringing, fire alarm)
- Paraphrase information heard
- Focus on/understand verbal responses by classroom peers
- Understand auditory information presented via instructional media

## **Common Classroom Tools:**

- Closed captioning access to caption ready television and video presentations  
Computer/tablet/word processor
- Digital recorder/player
- Headphones for clarity of sound and blocking of extraneous noises
- Document camera
- Interactive whiteboard

- Projection system/ overhead projector
- Television
- Video player

### **Common Accommodations/Modifications/Strategies:**

- Audio-tape verbally presented information for repeated presentation
- Break directions into smaller steps/segments
- Have student verbally summarize directions
- Optimal student seating o appropriate lighting (not facing glare or in shadows)
  - away from extraneous noises
  - close proximity to the teacher (distance)
  - individualized visual proximity to educational environment/materials
- Peer note-taker
- Pre-teach vocabulary and/or components of the lesson
- Provide a written outline of lecture
- Provide organizer in advance
- Provide print copy of script in videotapes
- Provide sign language/oral interpreter
- Provide unobstructed view of the teacher
- Reduce distractions
- Use gestures
- Use verbal prompts
- Use visual supports (picture symbols, diagrams, maps)

### **Assistive Technology Solutions:**

- Amplification systems
  - soundfield system
  - assistive listening devices
- Alerting devices
- Telecommunication devices
- Digital recorder with indexing capability
- Device, software or app
  - audiobooks
  - note taking
  - smartpen
  - speech recognition for converting teacher lecture to text and/or sign
- Closed captioning
- Translation services

*Products mentioned below are examples of available items. Their listing in this guide is not an endorsement or suggestion for purchase. Consideration of the tool should be individualized to each student.*

# ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE GUIDE: **HEARING/LISTENING**

## **Example Products**



*Speech Gear - Captioning, translating*  
<http://www.speechgear.info/>



*Phonak - Hearing aids, sound field systems*  
<https://www.phonakpro.com/us/en/home.html>



*Oticon - FM Systems, Hearing aids*  
<https://www.oticon.com/>



*IQ Buds - Help to reduce background noise*  
<https://www.nuheara.com/>



*Califone Hearing Protection Headphones*  
<http://www.califone.com/>