

Supporting Hearing Impaired Students in Mainstream Schools

Rachel Reyes, M.Ed, LSLS Cert. AVT



Inclusion in a mainstream school is a basic principle of auditory-verbal practice. Listening and spoken language professionals promote and facilitate placement of a child who has hearing loss in the mainstream classroom with peers who have typical hearing



Optimizing Learning in Mainstream Classrooms

- Minimize background noise
- Strategic seating
 - sit where both ears are facing the desired sound source and away from sources of noise
 - Not necessarily in front row where child does not see what is happening at the back. 2nd row and center is better.

Optimizing Learning in Mainstream Classrooms

Make sure one person is speaking at a time during group discussions

Use communication notebook to jot down simple comments to the family on a daily basis

Focus attention – “Listen class!”

6dB Rule – if the distance of the teacher from the child is doubled, the signal is reduced by 6 dB

Optimizing Learning in Mainstream Classrooms

FM Systems – to improve signal to noise ratio

Buddy System – having a classmate provide friendly support can assist in making sure the child with a hearing loss is engaged in all activities

Visual/Written Cues – all upcoming events, assignments and announcements must be written on the board

Optimizing Learning in Mainstream Classrooms

Incidental/Overhearing Ability – teachers must make sure that the child with hearing loss is included in conversations and they must check that the child has heard it

Pre Teaching – parents are given the new vocabulary, themes, topics and concepts to be done in class in advance

Discipline – must be treated the same way as a student with normal hearing and needs to understand and follow rules and regulations of the classroom

When Communication Breaks Down

Check hearing technology (device failure inform parents)

Get closer and reduce background noise

Rephrase the information or make it easier for the child to understand

Use acoustic highlighting on key words

Hearing Loss in the Classroom

