

Alpine School District Communicative Disorders Department

The following suggestions are designed to help teachers more effectively convey instructional information to students who have a hearing loss. Most of the suggestions enhance the educational opportunity for all students.

First, if you have a classroom amplification system, use it all the time. This will help the child with hearing loss, as well as the other students in the classroom.

- Preferential seating placement is essential. The student should be close to the area in the classroom where most of your verbal instruction takes place. Encourage the student to avoid sitting near the back of the classroom. If the student hears better in one ear, the seating orientation should favor the better ear.
- Speak naturally and enunciate clearly. However, do not exaggerate speech or lip movements.
- Rephrase or restate information if not initially understood.
- Avoid talking to the class when facing the chalkboard/whiteboard.
- The student with hearing loss needs to be able to see your entire face anytime you are communicating with the class. They depend heavily on visual cues to “hear.” It is hard to speechread if only part of the face can be seen. If you stand right up against the first row of seats when giving instructions, it is better to seat the student in the second or third row so that as he/she looks up to your face, the view is not distorted.
- Use visual information whenever it is reasonable. Write down key words, vocabulary, new concepts, homework, assignments, etc. Use the chalkboard/whiteboard, handouts, outlines, etc.
- Let the student know you are accessible. Be willing to visit briefly before or after class to make sure they are getting the necessary information. Make them feel welcome to approach you if there is a problem.
- If you have questions about a student with hearing loss in your classroom, please feel free to contact the Speech Pathologist assigned to your school, or the District Audiologist at (801)785-8737.

Thank you for all you do for our students!