

Supporting a hearing impaired child with a moderate hearing loss

A child with a moderate hearing loss will have difficulty accessing spoken language. Hearing aids are used to give the child access to good patterns of speech and language.

This is a significant hearing loss. Whilst the pupil's speech may be good, there are often gaps in vocabulary, spellings and general knowledge. They may use a radio aid in the classroom.

A child with this type of hearing loss may:

- Find it difficult to listen and understand speech particularly in background noise, eg. Following instructions, class discussions.
- not hear clearly in paired/group work
- have unclear speech
- have delayed language
- have a reduced vocabulary due to a lack of incidental learning
- have difficulty acquiring phonics
- Leave out unstressed sounds in their writing.
- be easily distracted and lose concentration
- pick up cues from their peers

To support the child with a moderate hearing loss:

- ensure consistent use of hearing aids and/or radio aid
- face the child as they need to see your lips and facial expressions
- ensure you have the child's attention before you begin to speak to the class
- cue the child in to changes of topic . eg, use visual support.
- speak clearly and naturally at a normal pace
- repeat others' contributions
- speak one at a time
- keep background noise to a minimum
- use visual references
- check the child understands instructions/tasks with open ended questions