

Degrees of Hearing Loss



Deaf Children
Australia



Degrees of hearing loss

You may be told that you or your child has a mild hearing loss. Or, you may find out that you or your child's hearing loss is more severe. This description is referred to as "the degree of hearing loss." It is based on how loud sounds need to be for you to hear them. Decibels, or dB, describe loudness. The term dB HL describes your hearing loss in decibels.

0 – 20 dB: Normal range of hearing

The child can hear:

- A tap dripping
- Birds chirping

20 – 41 dB: Mild hearing loss

The child may:

- Have difficulty in hearing faint speech and people may sound as if they are mumbling
- Have difficulty hearing in noisy classrooms
- Benefit from sitting near the front of the classroom
- Use hearing aids

42 – 75 dB: Moderate hearing loss

The child may:

- Have difficulty hearing group conversations, if the speaker's voice is faint, if the face is not visible or is in the presence of background noise
- Benefit from speech and language support and seating near the front in a noisy classroom
- Have limited vocabulary
- Use hearing aids

76 – 90 dB: Severe hearing loss

The child may:

- Have great difficulty following classroom discussions
- Need special education assistance for deaf children
- Need preferential seating in a quiet classroom
- Benefit from hearing aids or cochlear implants and they will benefit from the use of Auslan

91+ dB: Profound hearing loss

The child may:

- Not rely on hearing for communication
- Need special education assistance for deaf children
- Not benefit from hearing aids
- Use Auslan
- Receive cochlear implants (there are many factors involved here, not just degree of hearing loss)

Websites

Medel - Great website with pictures and audio for understanding audiograms

www.medel.com/about-hearing/audiogram

How to understand and Audiogram - Youtube Video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bP-nJp3yBK4

Measuring hearing Information sheet

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au/information-sheets-measuring-hearing/

For further information about Deaf Children Australia.

www.deafchildrenaustralia.org.au

Helpline 1800 645 916

helpline@deafchildren.org.au

Deaf Children Australia uses the term 'deaf' to refer to all degrees and types of hearing loss.

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