



**ABOUT
HEARING
LOSS**

**BLUE
PRINT**

Deaf
Children
Australia.

ABOUT HEARING LOSS

About hearing loss

Hearing loss describes a reduced ability to hear that varies in severity. If you're keen to include deaf and hard of hearing (DHH) children and young people in your activities, it helps to know a bit more about hearing loss.

Degrees of hearing loss

Hearing loss is classed into four categories depending on how severe it is. This is measured with hearing tests.

Mild hearing loss

A child with mild hearing loss may find it hard to hear distant or quiet speech. It can also be hard for them to hear conversations when there is a lot of background noise. For example, they might have trouble hearing spoken instructions in a noisy locker room.

Moderate hearing loss

Children with a moderate hearing loss need support to understand normal speech. They will often wear hearing aids, or they might use cues such as lip reading.

Did you know?

Estimates show between 3.4 and 12.8% of Australian primary school children have a hearing impairment.

Seong Min Robyn Choi, Joseph Kei & Wayne J. Wilson (2017) Rates of hearing loss in primary school children in Australia: A systematic review, *Speech, Language and Hearing*, 20:3, 154-162. DOI: 10.1080/2050571X.2016.1259199

Severe hearing loss

These children find it hard to understand normal speech even when they wear their hearing aids. Without hearing aids they would not pick up normal conversation, although they may hear a loud voice very close to them. Even with hearing aids, they might use cues such as lip reading to help them understand. Some children with severe hearing loss have a cochlear implant.

Profound hearing loss

Children with a profound hearing loss find it hard to understand normal speech even with their hearing aids. Without hearing aids, they would not pick up loud shouting. Most of these children have cochlear implants. Some of them will mainly use listening and speech to communicate. Others may use sign language.



I wear hearing aids when I dance. They pick up all the sounds going on around me. It's really helpful to hear the beats of the music I'm dancing to."

AMELIA, HARD OF HEARING DANCER

SIGNS A CHILD MAY BE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

It could suggest a child in your club or group has a hearing impairment if they:

Focus intently on your face or lean one ear towards you when you speak

Misinterpret what you've said or miss important information

Mispronounce words or have other speech problems

Have a smaller vocabulary than peers of the same age

Have trouble following complex or multi-step instructions

Find it harder to understand in a noisy environment

Don't understand colloquial terms such as 'pull up your socks'

Get very tired by the end of a training or activity session

Don't respond when you call them

Seem like they're not paying attention.

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