

---

## SCHOOL

Childhood is the time when life's most important messages are gathered, creating the stepping stones towards adulthood. Every day children are presented with new information. Every day they learn new lessons – whether sitting quietly in a classroom or completely caught up in play.

Your child's teachers are a critical part of the team helping your child on his or her way through life. Children with severe hearing loss will usually attend special schools for hearing impaired children. When possible, many parents prefer that their child attend a regular local school instead of a special school. If your child attends a regular school, it is important to make sure that the teachers are educated as to the unique needs of a hearing impaired child. Once these needs are met, most children will do quite well.





Teachers need to understand the importance of your child's listening environment. In addition to the effect hearing has on education, your child's social and psychological well-being in school can depend on a good listening environment. It is important for a child to be a part of the activities around him or her.

We have compiled a checklist that should be considered when choosing a school for your child.

If you can answer "yes" to most of these questions, your child's school is probably able to provide a good listening environment for your child. Otherwise, it is quite possible that the teachers and the school are not familiar with your child's special needs. By discussing this list with them, you can help them understand the importance of an appropriate listening environment. Many of these points will help children with normal hearing to hear better in class as well!

---

## School checklist

- Do the teachers and staff know enough about hearing loss and hearing aids to assist your child over minor hurdles?
- Are the teachers willing to learn more about hearing loss and hearing aids?
- Are the teachers sensitive and understanding towards your child's hearing loss?
- Are the teachers willing to avoid misunderstandings and prejudice about your child's hearing loss by educating other pupils?
- Is special teaching help available if your child needs extra help with his or her schoolwork?
- Does the school have a policy about teasing? Teasing between children about glasses, weight, hearing aids or whatever should not be tolerated.
- Are FM systems provided and maintained by the school?



### ➤➤➤ School checklist, continued

- Are the teachers willing to wear an FM system microphone?
- Are the teachers willing to store hearing aid batteries for you?
- Is your child's classroom away from major sources of noise (ex: main school door, busy hallway, street traffic, playground, janitor's shop, furnace room, gym)?
- Is the classroom carpeted to avoid reverberation and unnecessary noise made by chairs and desks?
- If carpeting is not available, can carpet tiles or rubber tips be fitted onto desk and chair legs?

- 
- Is your child able to sit in a position at the front of the class in order to see and hear the teacher, and to minimise distractions and optimise interaction with other students (depending on the style of teaching that is used in the classroom)?
  - Is the lighting in the classroom appropriate for lip-reading?
  - Are other pupils discouraged from speaking freely during instruction hours?
  - Can squeaky objects such as doors and desktops be quieted?
  - Are special instructions provided for children with hearing loss in case of fire or other emergencies?

