THE FACTS!

- If you teach you will have children with hearing loss!!!!
- 1/4 to 1/3 of primary age children do not hear normally on a given day.
- 74% - 84% of children who receive special education services have abnormal hearing levels (NIDCD, 2009)
- Young children up to age 7 are typically susceptible to ear infections
- "Mild Hearing Loss – Has difficult hearing faint or distant speech. May miss up 10% of speech signals when the teacher is at a distance of greater than three feet. Misses word endings, function words, prepositions, articles, etc., that are not heavily emphasized." (Doyle and Dye, 2002, p. 11).

Possible Signs of Hearing Loss

- Responds inconsistently to sound
- Plays follow the leader
- History of ear infections
- Talks in a soft voice
- Confuses sounds that are similar
- Watches speaker’s face carefully
- Frequently asks for things to be repeated
- Answers a questions with an unrelated answer
- Poor speller
- Articulation problems
- Takes longer to respond to verbal stimuli
- Auditory memory is limited
- Speech is poorer than you would expect for his/her age
- Poor behavior (inattentive, withdrawn, daydreams)
GOOD NEWS!

- Every student can benefit from accommodations you make for children with hearing loss.
- You are not alone – build your team!

Your Classroom

- How loud is your classroom? [15db STN ratio, APPS: db meter volume, Too Loud, decibel]
- What environmental noises interfere with your instruction (e.g., fish tank, overhead lights, HVAC)?
- Where is your classroom located?
- Do you have carpet on the floors or area rugs?
- Sealed doors and windows?
- Where is your desk and the student’s desks in the classroom?
- Soundfield system?
- Low ceilings?
- How do you communicate in the classroom?
- What other locations are difficult for students to hear in at school?

Know your students!

- How does the student communicate?
- Does your student have self-advocacy skills?
- What does not hearing or not hearing well mean to the student?
- What are red flags for any given day?
- When and where does he/she hear best?
- Don’t assume – hearing fluctuates
- Does your student benefit from technology - Cochlear Implants, Hearing Aids, soundfield system, CART, captioning?
- Can the student listen and keep notes at the same time?
- Can you determine when the student is lost to what is happening in the class?
- Would the student benefit from a class outline for the day?

Continued...Know your students

- Would the student benefit from a peer buddy?
- What is the student’s vision?
- How does the student socialize with other classmates?
- Does the student handle transitions easily?
- Student fatigue – Do you see the student tiring easily?
- Does the student benefit from you restating or repeating content?
- Does pausing or allowing for lag time help the student when asked questions?

How do you teach/communicate?

- How visual are your lessons?
- Do your speak clearly and to the class?
- How do you break down concepts?
- How do you work within your classroom?
- How animated are you with students?
- Do you call on your team if needed?
- How often do you read to students?
- How do you handle figurative language?
- How do you make accommodations or modifications for assessments and/or assignments?
- Do students know the schedule for the day?
- Do you have fun?

Working with an interpreter

- Role of the interpreter
- Sharing educational materials
- Open communication
- Time lag
- Interpreting in the classroom
- Advocating for the interpreter
- Interpreter location in the classroom

Resource - www.classroominterpreting.org

Working with an Itinerant and/or Resource Teacher

- What is the role of the teacher in the school?
- Share IEP goals and education materials.
- Respect time and space for this teacher.
- Determine how best to communicate.
- Work together on student assessment.
- Call upon the teacher to provide inservices to faculty/staff
Take advantage of local, state, and national resources:

www.bridgesfordeafandhardofhearing.org
www.tndeaflibrary.nashville.gov
www.dcmp.org
www.tsndeaf.org
www.successforkidswithhearingloss.com
www.agbell.org
www.handsandvoices.org
www.deafchildren.org

You have a new student with a hearing loss.

What’s next?

• Environment
• Technology
• Teaching strategies
• Team building
• Resources

All clip art from Kid Clip Art - Images
www.mycutegraphics.com/graphics/kids-clip-art/html