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Sudbury Espanola Manitoulin

Signs of Hearing Loss

A Checklist for the Classroom Teacher

Hearing loss is an invisible disability. The problem may not be readily obvious to parents and teachers, especially if the loss fluctuates. As a result, children with hearing loss may complete several years of formal education before their hearing loss is detected. Thus, the classroom teacher's observations continue to be one of the best guides for reporting and following up on suspected hearing loss.

A student with undetected hearing loss may:

- be unduly restless
- show signs of fatigue in the afternoon
- often seem inattentive
- often withdraw from group activities to play or work alone
- tend to associate with younger children, who offer an easier level of language and acceptance
- make numerous requests for repetitions
- continuously have failing grades or marks
- be unable to follow directions (they watch other students for clues)
- often show an inability to hear when in a group or in a noisy environment
- fail to respond in question periods
- pay undue attention to the face of a speaker
- turn one ear to the speaker in an attempt to hear more easily
- mispronounce words or omit or substitute sounds (they often fail to pronounce final consonants; for example /s/ is often the first sound to be omitted with a high frequency loss)
- have a voice quality that is extreme, resulting in an unusually loud or weak or high or low voice
- have frequent colds, earaches, or runny ears
- complain of head noises or ringing in the ears
- have chronic allergies
- be a chronic mouth breather
- demonstrate signs of frustration (eg. acting out, withdrawal, depression).
- be easily distracted by background noise
- learn poorly through the auditory channel; may learn more effectively through the visual channel
- have a short attention span
- say "what" 5 or more times per day
- appear to daydream
- become confused by unexpected changes in classroom routine
- have difficulty with phonics
- have a history of ear infections
- have had ventilating tubes inserted in the ears

For further information, please contact Itinerant Teacher of the Deaf _____
by Board email.