

# A CHILD WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN THE CLASSROOM

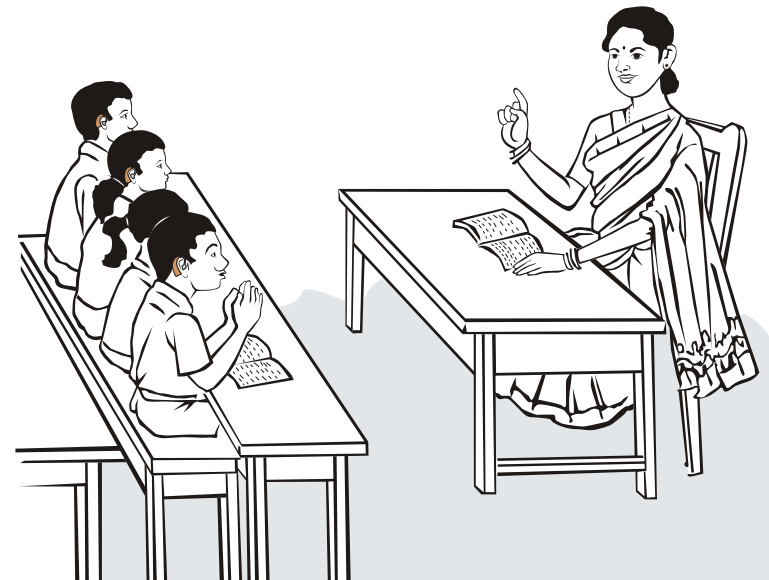
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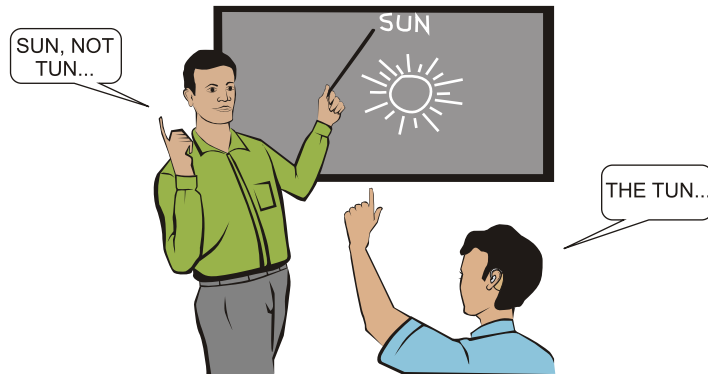
**ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING**  
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## **A CHILD WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT IN THE CLASSROOM**

A major portion of learning takes place through the sense of hearing. Difficulties in learning can often be because of problems in hearing. It is our concern that a child should be able to listen as well as learn. Hence, it is necessary to identify children with hearing problems and help them perform on par with their peers with normal hearing.

### **A child with a hearing problem may:**

1. Complain of ear discharge, frequent ear-aches, and pain around the ear
2. Make mistakes while speaking, either by leaving out certain sounds or substituting one sound for another. For example, instead of saying 'Sun', the child may say 'Tun' or 'Un'



3. Not answer questions or answer questions incorrectly
4. Not respond when his name is called out
5. Not be able to follow verbal commands during group games and in Physical Education classes. He/she may just imitate the other children.
6. Ask for questions and instructions to be repeated



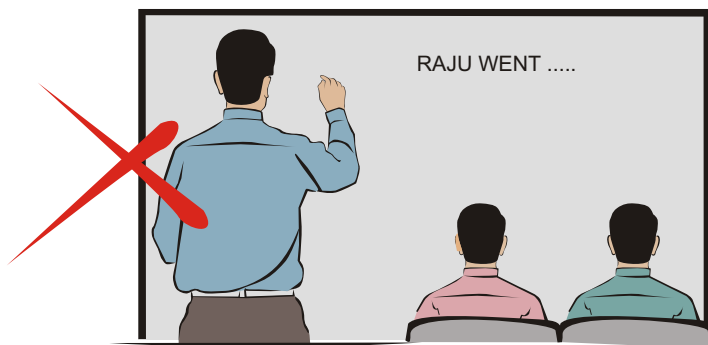
7. Find it easier to understand when he/she is directly facing the speaker, than when he/she is not able to see the speaker
8. Try to understand speech by watching the speaker's face

You should also take certain steps to prevent hearing loss:

1. Do not hit children on the head or on the ears. Do not let the children hit each other, either. Also, try to prevent children from falling and hurting their heads. Head injuries can cause hearing loss.
  2. Teach the children not to shout loudly into each others' ears. Tell them not to listen to loud music. Also tell them to avoid bursting loud firecrackers, as loud noises are one of the most common causes of hearing loss.
  3. If any of the children has any contagious disease (ex: mumps, measles, etc), do not let them come to class. This will prevent the spread of the disease to other children.
  4. If a child contracts a disease that is a known cause of hearing loss (ex: mumps, chicken pox, high fever, meningitis, encephalitis, typhoid), advise the child's parents to get the child's hearing checked as soon as possible. Early identification would help in taking the right steps to ensure that the child develops on par with other children with normal hearing.
  5. Insist on personal hygiene and cleanliness. This will help keep infections away.
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hearing can have difficulties in such situations. Understanding speech is always easier if the children can hear as well as see the teacher. Here are a few tips to make listening in difficult situations easier:

1. Face the class when you speak. Do not talk while writing on the blackboard



2. Stand in a well-lit place
3. Avoid standing with your back to a window or any source of light. This would cast a shadow on your face, making it difficult for the students to watch your facial movements
4. Do not move around as you talk. This will cause the loudness of the sound to keep changing. Children with hearing impairment would find it very difficult to listen in such situations
5. Do not cover any part of your face while speaking. This will muffle your speech. Also, children will not be able to pick up visual clues.



6. Speak naturally. Do not exaggerate your lip and face movements. Extra movements of the lips, tongue, and face would only make speech more difficult to understand.

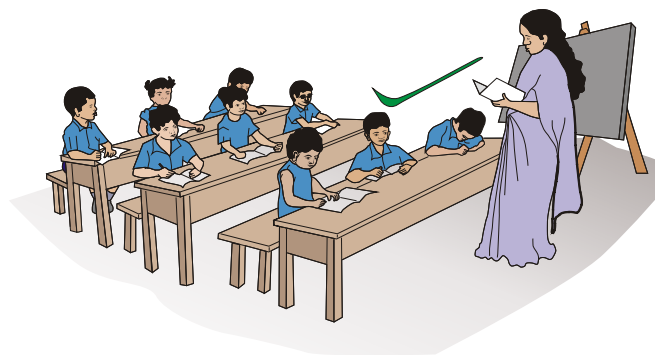
9. Not be able to identify who spoke or where the sound came from
10. Speak in a very loud or a very soft voice
11. Have difficulty in classroom activities for which listening is important, such as dictations
12. Seem to be inattentive or distracted

**It is important to get professional help immediately because:**

1. Even a mild hearing loss can cause the child a lot of difficulty in carrying out classroom activities as well as social activities
2. Early identification and timely help can prevent the problem from getting worse

The child may need medical treatment or hearing aids. Until then, you can help the child by:

1. Seating him/her in the front row. That way, he/she will be closer to the teachers and can hear and see them better.



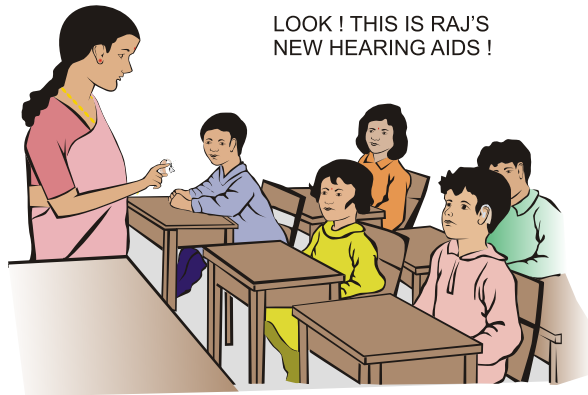
2. Making sure you have his/her attention when you make important announcements in class or give homework. It might help if you wrote these down on the blackboard. This would also help the children with normal hearing.



3. Seeing him/her after class for a few minutes, if necessary.

You may also have a student who wears a hearing aid in one or both ears. You can help such children make the most of their school experience. Listed below are a few ways you can help:

1. Make sure the child wears his/her hearing aid. Check if the hearing aid is working and if it has been switched on.
2. Help him/her remove the hearing aid and keep it in a safe place when he/she participates in rough outdoor games.
3. Talk to the other students in the school about the hearing aid. Tell them what it does, how delicate it is, and why it should be handled with care.



4. Remember that a child with hearing impairment has to make a special effort to follow what is going on in the classroom. This will tire him/her out easily. Do not punish him/her for occasionally having poor attention.
5. Encourage the child to participate in musical activities. This would help him/her to use rhythm while speaking. It would also help them learn to use the hearing abilities they still have.



6. Allow the child with hearing impairment to turn around in his/her seat to face the student who is speaking/ reciting in class.
7. Remind the child and his/her parents to get a hearing evaluation done every year.
8. Encourage the child with hearing impairment to participate actively in extra-curricular activities and social functions.
9. Do not seat the child in a noisy area. Let him/her sit away from the windows.
10. You may assign a fellow classmate or 'buddy' to help the child with hearing impairment



11. Use visual aids while teaching. Write important points down on the blackboard. This will make learning easier for children with normal hearing, too.



Surrounding noise always makes it more difficult to hear and understand speech clearly. A classroom can be quite noisy, especially if the school is located in a noisy area. Traffic noise, noise from the playground and noise made by other children may often make it difficult to hear in the classroom. Children sitting in the back row are at a disadvantage, because the teacher's speech may not sound as loud as it is to the children sitting in the front. Even children with normal