

MILD HEARING LOSS 26-40 dB

Possible Impact on Listening and Understanding of Language and Speech

- A 20 dB or greater hearing loss can result in inconsistent parts of speech, especially word endings (s, ed). Child may have difficulty hearing faint or distant speech. Up to 10% of speech can be missed at a distance of more than 3 feet from the speaker.
- At 30 dB, 25– 40% of speech signal can be missed.
- At 40 dB, the student may miss 50% of class discussions.
- Student will most likely miss unemphasized words and consonants, especially with a high frequency hearing loss.
- Percent of speech missed will be greater whenever there is background noise in the environment.
- Students may find it easier to watch and copy movements of other students rather than attending to auditory instructions.

Possible Academic Accommodations and Services

- Will benefit from hearing aid(s) and a classroom amplification system.
- Student will benefit from preferential seating and reduced noise in the classroom environment.
- May need speech and/or language therapy.
- May need attention to auditory skills, vocabulary, self-advocacy and/or support in reading and communication.
- Inservice on implications of this type of hearing loss required for classroom teacher.

Possible social implications

- Missing conversational cues and instruction may cause the child to be viewed as inappropriate or awkward having a negative effect on self-esteem.
- Behavior may be confused for immaturity or inattention.
- Child may believe he/she is less capable due to listening difficulties he/she faces.
- Child begins to lose the ability of selective listening and suppressing background noise.