

SEVERE TO PROFOUND HEARING LOSS 71-90 or greater dB

Possible Impact on Listening and Understanding of Language and Speech

- Without amplification, the child with 71-90dB hearing loss may only hear loud noises within one foot of the ear.
- With optimal amplification, those with a hearing loss of 90 dB or better should be able to detect many sounds of speech if presented with FM amplification or from a close distance.
- Even with amplification, those with 71 – 90 dB loss are typically unable to perceive high pitch sounds, such as a bird chirping.
- The child with a 70 dB or greater hearing loss may be a candidate for a cochlear implant.
- The child with a 90 dB or greater hearing loss will not be able to perceive most speech sounds with hearing aids.
- For full access to language via sign language, family members must be involved in the child's communication from an early age.

Possible Academic Accommodations and Services

- Full-time, consistent use of amplification is essential.
- Student will benefit from preferential seating in the classroom environment.
- Consultation and/or direct services provided by a teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing should be considered.
- Special academic support may be necessary if language or educational delays are present.
- If an auditory/oral approach is used, early training is needed on auditory skills, spoken language, concept development and speech production.
- If sign language is selected, frequent exposure to Deaf, ASL users is important. Educational placement with other signing students may be considered as a more appropriate option to access a language-rich environment.
- Note-taking assistance, lecture notes provided, and captioned films are beneficial accommodations.
- Inservice on implications of this type of hearing loss required for classroom teacher.

Possible social implications

- Students may develop a greater dependence on adults due to comprehending oral communication.
- Students may be more comfortable interacting with deaf or hard of hearing peers due to ease of communication.
- Socialization with hearing peers may be difficult.