

Top Ten Transition Tips For Teachers



When working in the classroom with a child who is deaf / hard of hearing

There are lots of things that can be done in the classroom that can help a child who is deaf/ hard of hearing. Here are some simple things that can improve listening conditions in a classroom:

- Avoid sitting a deaf / hard of hearing child in a noisy part of the classroom. For example make sure they are away from noisy equipment, such as air conditioners or computers.
- Close the classroom door when the corridor becomes noisy or close the windows and curtains when there are outside noises.
- Use wall displays to cover and soften large flat surfaces and carpet floors where possible, as this will help to reduce echoing.
- Place felt on the bottom of pencil containers or on the bottom of chair legs that scrape.
- Encourage children to maintain a quiet working atmosphere and try to make hearing children aware of various noises that, for example, a hearing aid can amplify, such as chairs scraping, doors banging, general chatter, shouting, and dropping objects.
- Get into the habit of repeating the questions and answers other children say. Children have soft voices and are often sitting behind the deaf / hard of hearing child.

Where a child sits, lighting, and where a teacher is positioned in the class are also important:

- In the classroom a deaf / hard of hearing child should sit near to and facing the teacher. However, it is also important that they can see the other pupils. Sitting in a circle on the carpet is sometimes useful.
- If you walk around when you are talking a deaf/ hard of hearing child may not be able to follow what you are saying. Identify a few key places to stand in the classroom where a deaf child will be able to see you clearly.
- Make sure that your face is evenly lit (for example, facing a window, not with a window to your back) as this will make lip reading easier for children.
- Make sure that when you are writing on the white board, that you face the children when you are speaking. This will help them to lip read, and to see your facial expression.