

Considerations for Teaching Students with Hearing Impairments

The effects of hearing aids may vary from student to student. Hearing aids help one-on-one conversations go smoothly. However, depending on the student's hearing level, background noise, and the number of people participating in the conversation, hearing aids may have no effect at all. Many deaf students can recognize the fact that a sound is being produced, but may not decipher those sounds into words.

a. The level of hearing loss is different from person to person. Therefore, each student's learning strategies and methods may vary. If you are not sure what strategies or methods the student uses, talk with the student directly.

b. When taking attendance orally, look at the student directly to make sure that he or she is there.

c. When using Power Point, OHP, or any form of visual aid, keep in mind that the deaf student has to look alternately from visual aid to translator, which takes time resulting in miscommunication. Please provide handouts beforehand to make communication more effective.

d. Use concrete words or instead of pronouns as much as possible (i.e. [this] and [that] when giving instructions in a textbook).

e. Because many deaf students are able to read speech or lip-read, speaking slowly and clearly will help the deaf student understand what is going on the class.

f. Even though many deaf students can read speech or lip-read, visual aids would assist in comprehension. (i.e. handouts, flash cards, writing on the board, etc.)

g. When using video or cassette, please provide a written form of the text to aid comprehension. A student coordinator can help with written texts if a request is made a month ahead of time.

For any questions or comments please contact:

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