

Auditory strategies

Child's name: _____ Date: _____



A child with auditory sensitivity may have difficulty screening out noises from the next classroom and tolerating background noise such as a fan. This child is likely to react emotionally to unexpected and loud noises such as the school bell or an aeroplane and be fearful of appliances such as a vacuum cleaner. They may subsequently have difficulty attending during lessons, because they are so overwhelmed by other auditory information.

- In situations where the child experiences a lot of loud noises, headphones / ear defenders or earplugs may be helpful to buffer some of the noise, e.g., in assembly or a dance class.
- Whenever possible, alert or prepare the child before an offending noise occurs, i.e. school bell, fire alarm. Avoid using appliances or equipment at times when you would like the child to maintain their focus.
- Keep auditory distractions to a minimum.
- Limit extraneous auditory input from the hallway by closing the classroom door.
- Seat the child away from open windows and doors.
- Prepare the child in advance for distractions such as visitors or announcements. A visual support is helpful.
- Consider setting up barriers or "cubicles" for deskwork that other children can also access.
- Provide headphones or earplugs for the child to wear during tests or deskwork, after verbal instructions have been given.
- Make sure that quiet occurs before instructions are given.
- Ask the child to repeat back what has been said to check for understanding and accuracy.
- Use gestures and / or visual supports to supplement verbal directions.
- Consider seating in a quiet, distraction free area. The area around the teacher's desk is often the busiest in the classroom.
- Undertake activities to build core stability – See '*Body awareness and coordination - Movies*'.