

Minimal loss of hearing

Could your child be missing out at home and at school?

Children with hearing loss of any degree have been shown to have academic, social and behavioral difficulties stemming from the inability to understand or learn the language that surrounds them. These children often choose not to participate in group settings or in loud environments because they cannot understand what is happening.

- For a child who has no language, a mild loss can cause speech issues in the future.
- A child who misses subtle conversation cues may respond in an inappropriate way, which is frustrating for all involved.
- A child who misses classroom instructions may be seen as a behavior problem because of his or her lack of response to the teacher.
- A child who cannot hear the teacher is not learning.
- If a child does not hear a sound, he/she cannot produce the sound. This affects writing, reading, and speech.
- If a child does not hear soft speech, he/she will not hear peers in the classroom or on the playground, will not "overhear" conversation and will have limited opportunities for incidental learning. This will lead to reduced language and literacy skills.

Competing noise levels	What is understood
Speech at 50 dB in quiet	84%
Speech at 35 dB in quiet	56%
Speech at 50 dB when surrounding noise is at 45 dB	58%
Speech at 50 dB when surrounding noise is at 50 dB	46%
Speech at 35 dB when surrounding noise is at 35 dB	34%

Normal conversation takes place at 50 dBHL and soft conversation takes place at 30 dBHL. Speech is best understood when competing noise is 10 decibels below the dB of conversation. In realistic situations, including tests of classroom decibel levels, speech is often only 5 dB or less above the competing noise.

Hearing 85% of a conversation is like putting together a 500 piece puzzle without 75 of the pieces.