

Reasonable adjustments for children and young people suspected of having a hearing loss

There are different types of hearing loss that may affect children and young people at different times.

It is important that children and young people have their hearing checked if a hearing loss is suspected.

Possible signs of hearing loss may include:

- Not responding when you call them
- Not being able to concentrate when it is noisy
- Not joining in with group activities
- Becoming tired and frustrated

If a hearing loss is suspected, families need to seek medical advice from a Health Visitor or doctor. It is helpful to the child if concerns about possible hearing loss are shared. This is so that arrangements can be made in setting or school to help them.

Shown below are some reasonable adjustments that may help.

Reasonable Adjustments

1.	Provide a good listening environment where everyone can hear.
2.	Keep background noise and visual distractions to a minimum as these can be very distracting and stop children from hearing.
3.	Make sure you are near the child when you want them to hear you!
4.	Get the child's attention before talking to them and make sure they are looking and concentrating.
5.	Get down to the child's level so they can see your face.
6.	Keep still, do not turn or move away.
7.	Speak clearly and do not shout or exaggerate.
8.	Give instructions in small manageable steps.
9.	Check information has been heard and understood by asking direct questions such as 'What have I asked you to do?' 'Where do you have to go?' or 'Where do you have to put it?' etc
10.	Provide an environment where pupils feel confident to ask for information to be repeated if they have not heard or understood.
11.	Use visual aids as much as possible as this can help to sustain interest.
12.	Children may need extra time to think and respond.
13.	Further information can be found at www.ndcs.org.uk/deafaware