

Challenges Facing a Child with Hearing Loss

It is tiring to strain to listen to voices you can barely hear.
(try listening to the television at a normal volume, with earplugs)

It is difficult to hear when there is background noise.
(now turn on the radio while you are listening to the television, at a normal volume, with earplugs)

- ➔ Imagine the difficulty of learning language under these listening conditions
- ➔ Imagine trying to learn in a noisy school classroom

Even the best hearing aids may not make all the sounds of speech available to a child with hearing loss.

- ➔ Imagine how much a child will misunderstand if s/he constantly has to guess what is said
- ➔ Imagine how difficult it could be for a child to concentrate if s/he constantly has to stop and ask her/himself “What did he say?”

It is difficult for a child to spontaneously develop age-appropriate language without access to a complete language model.

Without age-appropriate language comprehension and usage, healthy emotional and social development of a child is at risk.

Without age-appropriate verbal reasoning skills, school readiness is at risk.

Without age-appropriate language comprehension and usage, it is frustrating for a child with hearing loss to communicate with family members, peers, and other members of the community.