

Hearing in the classroom

Kids who hear well, learn well

Hearing loss affects how a child copes in class and how they enjoy school.

Students with hearing loss have to pay more attention to hear than their classmates. This can make them tired and distracted. The child isn't learning and the teacher might think they're not interested or just being naughty.

Common causes of hearing loss

Middle ear infections

A common cause of hearing loss in children is middle ear infection. This can be painful or pain-free. Hearing may be good on some days, bad on others. It can affect one or both ears.

The doctor can give treatment for the infection and hearing should get better.

On average, half of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school children have a hearing loss that can affect their schooling.

Around 5 out of 100 non-Indigenous school children will have the same type of hearing loss.

Sensorineural hearing loss

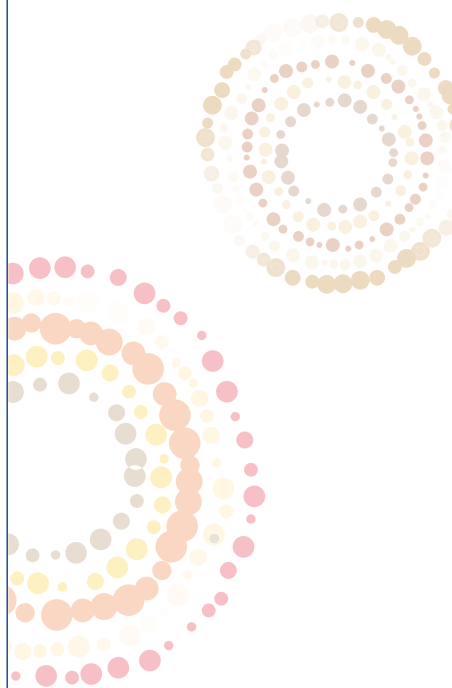
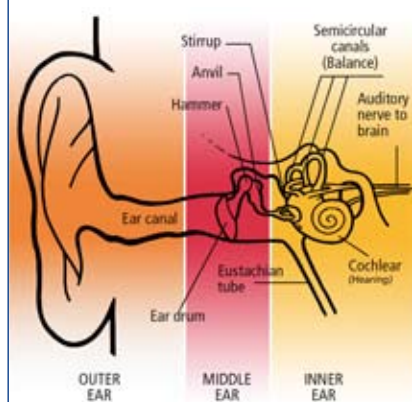
This type of hearing loss is caused by a problem in the cochlea (the inner ear) or the hearing nerve (the nerve that sends sounds to the brain). This kind of loss is usually permanent.

Children can be born with this loss or an illness might cause it when they're older.

A hearing aid may help a child with any type of hearing loss.

One ear or both?

If a child can hear well with one ear they can usually hear well if it's quiet. If it's noisy, the child will probably have problems hearing your voice clearly. Classrooms are usually noisy.



What can help in the classroom?

The student should...

- Sit near the teacher where the teacher's voice is louder and he can watch the teacher's face.
- Sit away from noise.
- Move to a better position if needed.
- If one ear is better than the other, sit with the good ear towards the class and teacher.
- Make sure he can see other children speaking when doing group activities.
- Sit with a buddy. The buddy could tell the student what they missed.
- Tell the teacher if they don't understand something.

The teacher could...

- Check with the student that hearing aids are being used if needed and are working properly.
- Face the students and stay still while talking. If the student can see the teacher's face she will hear better. Make sure there is good light in the classroom.
- Use pictures or diagrams to get an idea across.
- Ask the student to pay attention before beginning new work or asking a question.
- Check that the student understood. If they didn't, say the same thing another way. Ask the student to say when they don't understand.
- Try to make the classroom quiet when teaching a new topic. Ask the student to read ahead on a new topic. They will follow new words and ideas more easily.
- Consider using a classroom amplification system (see our 'Soundfield Amplification for the classroom' information sheet).

Australian Hearing

Australian Hearing audiologists can help parents and teachers by:

- Explaining what the student can hear
- Suggesting how to best to communicate with the student
- Discussing equipment that can help the student hear in class, including classroom amplification (see our 'Soundfield Amplification for the Classroom' information sheet)
- Providing training and reports.

How Australian Hearing can help

Australian Hearing provides Government subsidised services and the latest digital hearing aids for eligible people. For full details of our eligibility criteria visit www.hearing.com.au or contact your nearest hearing centre on **131 797**.



Australian Hearing provides the best hearing care, the latest in hearing aid technology and leads the world in hearing research.

listen up
LOOK AFTER YOUR EARS