Introduction – Student Profile
Do you suspect that a student in your classroom may have a hearing loss?

Some indications of a possible hearing loss:
• inattentiveness
• frequent failure to correctly respond to questions or directions
• constantly asking to have items repeated
• appears to favour a better ear
• multiple articulation errors
• omission of word endings: _ing, _ed, _s in speech and/or written work
• improved performance in face-to-face communication
• socially withdrawn in listening situations
• has difficulty concentrating in noisy environments

Referral Process
What do you do if you suspect that a student has a hearing loss?

Teachers can:
• Contact one of the School District #44’s Hearing Resource Teachers who will refer the student for a complete audiological assessment
• Ensure educational follow-up will be provided by a Hearing Resource Teacher, if needed
• Discuss the matter with the School Based Resource Team if the student passes the audiological evaluation and there are still concerns.

Parents can:
• Request a hearing test through their doctor
• Share any specific information about their child’s hearing with the school
• Self-refer by calling the VCH Children’s Hearing Clinic: 604-903-6704

For questions about this district-based service, please contact your home school or visit our website at: www.sd44.ca

Inclusive Education 44 Learning Services Handbook: www.sd44.ca/ProgramsServices/InclusiveEducation

Programming Options
What can a Hearing Resource Teacher do?

Once a hearing loss has been diagnosed, a Hearing Resource Teacher can:
• observe the student in the classroom
• consult with the classroom teacher regarding the student’s speech, language, and listening skills
• provide suggestions for classroom management
• assess the student’s communication skills
• provide direct support to the student for developing speech, language, and listening skills, and strategies for coping with his/her hearing loss
• present workshops to help peers better understand the sense of hearing
• present workshops to staff regarding hearing loss
• act as a liaison between school, home, and health care professionals

Facts about hearing and hearing loss
• The normal development of all the language processes depends on the sense of hearing:
  - Writing
  - Reading
  - Speaking
  - Listening
  - Language Foundation - Hearing
• Even a mild and fluctuating hearing loss, caused by a middle ear infection, can cause delays in the development of speech, listening, and language skills
• 17 out of 1,000 school age children will have a significant hearing loss
• Most childhood hearing losses result from inflammation of the middle ear – otitis media
• Early detection of a hearing loss is crucial for the development of communication skills
• A child of any age can have a hearing assessment, even infants