

Hearing Resource Services

Information for Schools, Parents, and Students

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- socially withdrawn in listening situations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