

PREFERENTIAL SEATING for HEARING DIFFICULTIES
Issaquah School District No. 411

Speech and Language Services

Student _____ Student's better ear is _____

Teacher's name _____ Building _____

Speech/Language Pathologist _____

By following these recommendations you could help this student be a more successful participant in your class.

LIGHT

- The light should not be behind the speaker. This includes light from windows. Perhaps the student should have his/her back to the window.

DISTANCE

- The student needs to see your face but not be right in front of you. The student may strain his/her neck looking up. The recommended speech reading distance is 8 feet. It is best if the student can see and hear the other class members.

SIGNIFICANT NOISE SOURCES

- If possible, the student needs to be far away from noise sources like the ventilation fans, hall traffic, noisy clocks, or very noisy fellow students.
- If one ear is better, then position the student with the worse ear toward the noise and the good ear toward the sound source you want him/her to hear.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS FOR STUDENTS WITH MORE LOSS IN ONE EAR

- This student might have difficulty locating the source of a sound. Or he/she might experience difficulty focusing on you in a noisy situation. Thus, the good ear needs to be toward the sounds you want him/her to hear (as mentioned above).

HELPFUL TEACHER HINTS

1. Speak naturally -- with a normal rate/loudness and clearly, but not exaggerated (otherwise speech reading and understanding is difficult).
2. Avoid writing on the blackboard while talking.
3. Try to avoid pacing while talking.
4. If at all possible, write directions on the blackboard either before or after giving them.
5. Give an overview of the topic to be discussed prior to beginning the lesson. This will be of significant assistance to many students in your class.
6. If at all possible, define potentially difficult vocabulary prior to the beginning of the lesson.

Thank you for your assistance in this and the support of this student. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you.