

The Name of the Game is Access

Students may tell you they want to take their hearing aids out or that they don't **need their FM** for certain situations.

Students entering school probably had their hearing loss identified when they were quite young. If they were lucky enough to have had Early Intervention services, the mantra is: "Hearing Aids should be worn all waking hours". In broad general terms students should then wear their hearing aids throughout the entire school day.

Each student is unique. These are general guidelines. Please always refer back to your individual students IEP and team members who know the student and their unique needs best.

School is an auditory world. Students who come to your classroom with hearing aids/ FMs have undergone significant testing to demonstrate that the technology helps them access auditory information. For a district to commit to an FM that carries a significant cost, the IEP team has data that demonstrates the student benefits from the hearing assistive technology. (FM/ Hearing aids)

When should my student use their hearing aids/ FM?

You talk all day long every day. Hearing Aids and FMs should be used **all day**. This includes PE, Art, Music, field trips and assemblies.

What about during a test?

Please use the FM transmitter and leave it on your body even during a test. You **OFTEN** give directions, explain a particular question, or make changes to directions during the test. The student with hearing loss has the right to all of that information as well.

Put the microphone on "mute" until you talk during the test.

When is it acceptable to take Hearing Aids or FM off?

Some students need "listening breaks". Learning in an auditory environment through electronics can be exhausting. If your student is experiencing exhaustion during the school day, they may need a listening break. Definitely chose art rather than reading class for the listening break. The loud atmosphere of a cafeteria or gym bothers some students. Again, taking a break during lunch or gym is better than not being ready to learn during Math.

What's the difference between Hearing Aids and FM?

Hearing aids amplify sound and do a great job for kids when the speaker is within about 3 feet of the student. Background noise and distance are very challenging. FM's send the teacher's voice right to the student's ear! The teacher can be across the room and it's as if they were right next to the child. FM's also overcome background noise.

Should my student wear their FM to gym?

YES!! There is not a noisier place or where there is as much distance between a listener and a speaker!!

WHEN HEARING AIDS OR FM ARE NOT WORN, THE STUDENT DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO SOUND OR SPEECH. **DO NOT BE FOOLED!** THEY ARE SPEECHREADING, USING VISUAL CUES, AND USING CONTEXT CLUES. THEY MAY *DETECT* SPEECH BUT NOT *COMPREHEND* IT. THEY CAN 'HEAR' YOU, BUT NOT UNDERSTAND ALL OR PART OF CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO ENCOURAGE AND REINFORCE STUDENTS TO USE THEIR TECHNOLOGY!