

Teacher Self-Talk: Modeling Appropriate Use of Language and Self-Advocacy

Classroom teachers and professionals trained to work with students who are deaf or hard of hearing communicate to the large group of students or the student with hearing loss frequently throughout the day. Children learn language and uses of language through overhearing, especially when something is of interest to them. Everyone experiences communication difficulties due to distance and background noise. Children with hearing loss will face many future listening and communication challenges. Consistent modeling of language and problem-solving not only provides the student with examples, but also informs class peers indirectly of the challenges of the student with hearing loss.

- **Parts of the hearing aid and careful handling.**
 - We need to check your hearing aid batteries. They can sometimes run out of power so your hearing aid stops working.
 - I don't see anything in the ear tube and your earmold looks very clean.
 - Let's see if you have your listening ears on today! (Proceed with the Ling Sound Listening Check – finish with an easy/ funny question).
- **Awareness of listening in noise challenges and what to do.**
 - Tony has something to say. We need to be polite and listen to him without making noise. When it is your turn to talk you wouldn't want people to be noisy, right?
 - Can you say that again Sally, people were still talking and I couldn't hear what you said.
 - I will say that instruction again. I heard some people making noise and I would guess that some of you had a hard time understanding what I said.
- **Awareness of listening at a distance challenges and what to do.**
 - Thanks for your answer Marguerite. You are all the way across the classroom from me and it was hard for me to hear all of your words. Could you say it again, louder please?
 - When we break into groups to work we need to remember that everyone must be able to hear. If it is too noisy then everyone will need to yell to be heard over the other voices. What do you think we should do?
 - It sounds like people are using their 'outside voices.' Remember, when it is noisy it is hard for everyone to understand what is being said. We need to use our quiet 'inside voices.'
- **Responding to questions about his hearing devices** (What are those things. They look weird.)
 - It's an ear computer – like a Bluetooth phone but even more special!
 - Chris wears glasses so he can see better, right? Well Terri wears hearing aids so she can hear better. I love how colorful they are. You can change the covering right Terri, so that there are different colors to go with your outfits. Neat!

