

Did you know?

- Educational research studies show that learning is dependent on the ability to communicate with spoken language and that perception of spoken language is the foundation for the ability to read and write
- As much as 60% of classroom learning activities typically involve listening to, and participating in, spoken communications with the teacher and other students. Disruption of this communication can affect students' scholastic achievement
- Most classrooms do not meet the ASHA recommendation for ambient noise levels
- On any given day, 43% of elementary level students could fail a basic hearing screening due to otitis media (ear infections)
- 131 of every 1,000 school-age children have some degree of hearing loss that impacts learning and development
- Students using a soundfield system have shown a 12% average improvement on vocabulary test scores and significant improvement in Scholastic Reading Achievement scores
- 25% of children have fluid without apparent signs of ear pain or fever, and it is not always true that the child will complain of an earache or have fever before their hearing can be affected.

Our Goal:

IDEA 2004 requires audiologic support for children with hearing loss in the educational setting. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association recommends one audiologist per every 12,000 students (not just hearing impaired). In order to create the optimal educational listening and learning environment, our goal is to provide Arkansas' schools/preschools with direct access to audiological services and meet the audiological needs of Arkansas' students.

Audiological Services Provided:

- **Screening/Management of Hearing Screening Programs** – Periodic screening of all students; appropriate referral and follow-up is provided
- **Management of Auditory Processing Students** – Information and guidance will be given for classroom management strategies
- **Audiological Evaluations** – Administration and interpretation of appropriate evaluations of hearing for each individual student
- **Hearing Aid Analysis/Troubleshooting** – Perform hearing aid evaluations, electroacoustic analysis, monitoring of classroom performance with amplification, and training personnel on performing daily listening checks
- **Classroom Amplification** – Select, evaluate and fit a variety of assistive listening devices and soundfield systems
- **Medical/Educational Referral** – Make appropriate referrals for medical care or educational assessment

- **Counseling and Guidance of Students/Parents/Teachers** – Discuss the effects of hearing loss on the understanding of language and speech, the possible psychosocial impact of hearing loss, and make recommendations based on their potential educational needs
- **Provide Training/Consultation and Interpretation for School Personnel** – Explain and interpret audiologic findings and their impact on the educational performance of the student and provide in depth training for school personnel
- **Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Planning and Writing** – Assist in writing appropriate IEP goals and objectives and designate appropriate educational placement, services and equipment
- **Hearing Conservation** – Develop a conservation program that can inform students about the effects of noise on hearing
- **Classroom Acoustic Education and Supervision** – Pre-construction or existing structure consultation where maximum noise and reverberation reduction can be planned
- **Maintain Evaluation/Screening Records** – Update the records of all assessments, instructional and educational services, program placement and attendance as appropriate

What is this we hear about EARS?

EARS is an outreach service of Arkansas Children's Hospital designed to provide educational audiology for school districts, educational cooperatives, preschool programs and other educational settings in order to meet the requirements of IDEA. The services that are provided range from managing screening programs to assistance with amplification and other classroom technical assistance, as well as recommendations for modifications for students with auditory processing disorders, cochlear implants, etc. A full range of evaluation services are available including audiological assessments, counseling/guidance for parents and hearing conservation education. Experienced audiologists are also available to assist in the development of IEPs and to provide focused in-service training for professionals and paraprofessionals. These audiologists can be contracted on a regular basis or called in on an "as needed" basis. Within the state of Arkansas, most schools have limited or no access to school based audiology services. This outreach program will add a much needed bridge to fill in the gap between identification, education and academic outcomes for students with hearing impairment.



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Why You Need an Educational Audiologist



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