

For further information please contact:-

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GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET

Basic Facts for Leaders

Hearing Impairment



GENERAL FEATURES

Children and young people with a hearing impairment can display a range or degree of hearing loss.

Mild This child or young person hears nearly all speech, but may mishear or misunderstand what is being said, if they are not looking directly at the speaker

Moderate The child or young person will have great difficulty hearing people who are not speaking close to them. He will probably wear a hearing aid and also may rely on lip reading and visual clues

Severe This child or young person will not be able to hear without the help of a hearing aid. They will need lip reading and body language to assist understanding

Profound This child or young person will probably use a hearing aid but he will rely on visual clues and/or Irish Sign Language. To communicate effectively radio aids are often used

Areas of the BB programme which would present difficulty for the child or young person

ANCHORS

- Programme areas where verbal introductions are employed

JUNIOR SECTION

- Programme areas where verbal instructions are employed

COMPANY SECTION

- Programme areas where verbal instructions are employed

USEFUL STRATEGIES

For communication with the Hearing Impaired children and young people

- Look in the direction of the child or young person when speaking
- Do not stand with your back to the light
- Avoid blocking your face when speaking
- Use short phrases and sentences. These are easier to understand than single words
- Present one source of information at a time
- Use body language to aid instructions and explanations
- Do not shout

Please note these are general strategies. Each child or young person is unique. It is therefore important to speak to their parent(s) to gain individual relevant information

HEARING IMPAIRMENT - TYPES OF LOSS

Monaural The child or young person will have hearing loss in one ear only

Conductive Loss This is when the mechanism by which sound waves reach the nerve endings in the cochlea is damaged. Some common causes re Glue Ear or foreign objects in the outer ear

Sensory Loss This is caused by damage to the nerves. Hearing aids are usually prescribed to maximize residual hearing. A cochlea implant may be used in a child whose hearing loss is too profound for hearing aids to alleviate

Mixed Loss This is a mixture of conductive and sensory loss

USEFUL WEBSITES

Special Education Support Service www.sess.ie

Disability Advice Network www.boysbrigade.ie/dan