

Support in our Schools for your Child who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing

A hearing loss is a medical issue that can affect one or both ears. Hearing loss can range from mild to great. Even a mild hearing loss can affect a child's academic, social and/or emotional skills or development. Students who are deaf or hard of hearing will need specific programming to help support them in a classroom environment.

Students who are identified with this exceptionality may exhibit some or all of the following characteristics:

- hearing loss which affects academic achievement and the acquisition of language
- delayed speech and language development
- require alternative form of communication
- need for amplification

Where to Start

Parents are important partners in education. Information from home will assist in appropriate programming and planning. If your child has been diagnosed with a hearing loss that may affect their learning, please bring this information to the attention of the school principal. A copy of your child's audiogram from the audiologist is requested. It is suggested to share copies of other reports or assessments prepared by other professionals who have supported your child, such as a medical doctor, Speech Language Pathologist, or Auditory-Verbal Therapist.

You can Help your Child by...

- following the audiologist's direction for return visits to ensure your child's hearing is monitored properly
- ensuring that the school has a current copy of the most recent audiogram
- informing the school when your child receives new equipment such as hearing aids
- providing your child's teacher and applicable staff with any updated reports from the audiologist or other professionals
- maintaining positive, open communication with the school staff
- communicating with professionals if you notice anything different in terms of your child's hearing and/or any struggles they may be encountering
- learning when, where, and how the use of technology or special equipment will help learning
- advocating at school by participating in meetings, opportunities for discussions, and parent-teacher events

Next Steps

Individual Education Plan (IEP)

A student may require "Accommodations" and/or "Modifications" to the curriculum. Accommodations may include special teaching, supports, and assessment strategies as well as changes or specific requirements in the environment. Modifications are significant changes to the number of curriculum expectations and/or a change to the grade level at which the student is working. Depending on the student's hearing loss, an "Alternate" expanded curriculum may need to be taught in addition to the core curriculum.

Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC)

A student may be formally identified through an IPRC process. Please see the Special Education Program page at tldsb.ca for more information. Students do not need to be identified to access special education support.

Special Education Equipment and Assistive Devices

Depending on your child's specific needs, a variety of assistive technology devices ranging from low tech to very high tech may be recommended by a qualified professional in order to have your child access the Ontario Curriculum and/or as a means to show their learning.

Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT)/Department Head of Special Education

The elementary school Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) or secondary school Department Head of Special Education supports the needs of students who require assistance beyond that provided by the regular classroom teacher. This assistance can be direct to the student or by providing programming support to the classroom.

TLDSB Specialized Services Staff

Based on the level of hearing loss, the Itinerant Teacher for the Deaf/Hard Of Hearing for Trillium Lakelands District School Board may provide direct or consultative support to students and/or school staff. The Itinerant Teacher for the Deaf/Hard Of Hearing may make programming suggestions and support staff with tasks such as IEP development, assistive technology instruction, and with getting appropriate instructional, environmental, and assessment strategies in place.

More Information

For more details, please visit tldsb.ca/programs/special-education or contact your child's school.

Community Partners and Resources

Canadian Hearing Society
(CHS Muskoka)
175 Manitoba Street
Suite 103
Brampton, ON | P1L 1S3
1.877.840.8882
705.645.8882
webmaster@chs.ca

(CHS Peterborough)
315 Reid Street
Peterborough, ON | K9J 3R2
1.800.213.3848
705.743.1573
Email: webmaster@chs.ca

Provincial Schools
Sir James Whitney School
for the Deaf
350 Dundas Street West
Belleville, ON | K8P 1B2

Ernest C. Drury School
for the Deaf
255 Ontario Street South
Milton, ON | L9T 2M5

Five Counties Children's Centre
Lindsay Office
9 Russell Street East
Lindsay, ON | K9V 1Z7
705.324.1922
1.888.706.4734

Minden/Haliburton Office
6 McPherson Street
Minden, ON | K0M 2K0
705.286.0737
fivecounties.on.ca

One Kids Place Children's Treatment Centre
100 Frank Miller Drive
Huntsville, ON | P1H 1H7
onekidsplace.ca

Closing the Gap
395 Centre Street North
Huntsville, ON | P1H 2P5
855.687.8707
1.877.560.0202
closingthegap.ca

Community Care Access Centre - Central East
(serving Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County)
Haliburton Branch
13321 Hwy. 118
Box 793
Haliburton, ON | K0M 1S0
705.457.1600

Lindsay Branch
370 Kent Street West
Lindsay, ON | K9V 6G8
705.324.9165
<http://healthcareathome.ca/centraleast/en>

Community Care Access Centre - North Simcoe Muskoka
Barrie Branch
15 Sperling Drive
Suite 100
Barrie, ON | L4M 6K9

Huntsville Branch
8 Crescent Drive, Suite B-3
Huntsville, ON | P1H 0B3
1.888.721.2222