

DEAFNESS

■ Definition of Deafness under IDEA

Deafness means a hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child's educational performance. 34 CFR 300.8(c)(3)

TYPES

The severity of a hearing impairment is ranked according to the additional intensity above a nominal threshold that a sound must be before being detected by an individual; it is (measured in decibels of hearing loss, or dB HL). Hearing impairment may be ranked as mild, moderate, moderately severe, severe or profound as defined below:

- Mild:
 - for adults: between 26 and 40 dB HL
 - for children: between 20 and 40 dB HL
- Moderate: between 41 and 54 dB HL
- Moderately severe: between 55 and 70 dB HL
- Severe: between 71 and 90 dB HL
- Profound: 91 dB HL
- Totally Deaf: Have no hearing at all

EVALUATIONS

The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that children should have their hearing tested several times throughout their schooling:

- When they enter school
- At ages 6, 8, and 10,
- At least once during middle school
- At least once during high school

Possible Causes

- Noise
- Genetic
- Illness
- Neurological Disorders
- Medications
- Physical Trauma Incidence

INCIDENCE

Approximately 1 in 68 or 1.47% or 4 million people in USA are deaf.

POSSIBLE SIGNS AND CHARACTERISTICS

There will be signs that a child may not be hearing normally. Parents may notice that their child:

- Does not respond consistently to sounds or to his or her own name
- Asks for things to be repeated or often says "huh?"
- Is delayed in developing speech or has unclear speech
- Turns the volume up loud on the TV and other electronic devices

TEACHING TIPS/INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Hearing loss or deafness does not affect a person's intellectual capacity or ability to learn. However, children who are hard of hearing or deaf generally require some form of special education services in order to receive an adequate education. Such services may include:

- Regular speech, language, and auditory training from a specialist
- Amplification systems
- Services of an interpreter for those students who use sign language
- Favorable seating in the class to facilitate lip reading;
- Captioned films/videos
- Assistance of a notetaker, who takes notes for the student with a hearing loss, so that the student can fully attend to instruction
- Instruction for the teacher and peers in alternate communication methods, such as sign language; and counseling

This information developed from the following resources:

- **Right Diagnosis**
www.rightdiagnosis.com/d/deafness/stats-country.htm
- **The Oklahoma School for the Deaf**
www.osd.k12.ok.us
- **The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders**
www.nidcd.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx
- **Center on Deafness**
www.centerondeafness.org
- **National Association of the Deaf**
www.nad.org