

TIPS FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING

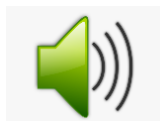
**When students are accessing online instruction or video conferencing,
consider the following:**



WORKSPACE: Provide a quiet workspace for your student, away from noise (background music, television, other family members playing or talking, etc.)



AMPLIFICATION: Continue to encourage full-time use of amplification at home. Check your student's amplification equipment before logging on. Ensure batteries are working and that your student's hearing aid/cochlear implant is working.



ACCESSING ONLINE AUDIO: Use of computer speakers or the Bluetooth connection (if available in your child's amplification/personal accessories) or headphones (if approved by your audiologist) are all options for maximizing auditory output from the computer. It may be helpful to try all options to determine which is best for your child. Do a listening check of the computer's audio to be sure it is accessible. Remember, louder isn't always clearer. Check to make sure that your student can hear and understand.



CAPTIONING: Turn on the closed captions (when available). Consider using a simultaneous captioning website if captions are not available with online instruction materials.



ASK FOR HELP: Reach out to your student's teacher with any questions or concerns you have with your child's ability to access online learning materials or live teaching sessions.

Other Considerations:

- Many deaf/hard of hearing students rely on speechreading to obtain information from a speaker's facial expressions to supplement their auditory input. When accessing online video instruction, audio and video may not match due to lag time. Students should utilize closed captions, if available. Ask your student's teacher to include captioning in recorded materials. If the teacher is backlit (more light behind the teacher than on their face making it difficult to see facial expressions and speechread) ask the teacher to reposition or find better lighting.
- It may be helpful to ask a teacher for bulleted notes, a list of important vocabulary or a copy of the PowerPoint with teacher notes included, if not already available.
- Utilize the raise hand function or chat to ask questions or have information repeated during a live course.
- Ask your student's teacher to mute everyone's microphone during a live session. Encourage them to call on students by name when it is their turn to respond and to repeat/rephrase each student's response.
- Promote your student's self-advocacy skills by encouraging them to let their teacher know if they can't hear or didn't understand what the teacher said.
- Provide listening breaks after sessions of online learning to combat auditory fatigue. Your student will likely be exerting more energy listening to online courses, especially when visuals are not readily available.