

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE – DEAF/HARD OF HEARING

What your child can hear

You might be given information which describes your child's hearing loss. The following are brief descriptions of what this might mean for your child.

A **mild loss** means an average loss of between 21dB and 40dB.

A person with a mild loss will have difficulty hearing soft conversational speech. Language and speech may develop normally. Hearing aids are needed in some cases, and when fitted, will overcome these hearing difficulties.

A **moderate loss** means an average loss of between 41dB and 60dB.

A person with a moderate loss will have difficulty hearing conversational speech, particularly when there is background noise. Language and speech would be affected to some degree if hearing aids are not provided. Hearing aids would overcome these difficulties.

A **moderate to severe** loss means an average loss of between 61dB and 75dB.

A person with a moderate to severe loss will only hear a raised voice at close distance without hearing aids. Language and speech would not develop spontaneously. With hearing aids, normal conversational speech would be able to be heard in good listening conditions. Speech quality should be intelligible, with appropriate intervention.

A **severe loss** means an average loss of between 76dB and 90dB.

A person with a severe loss will have difficulty hearing conversation speech. Language and speech would not develop spontaneously. With hearing aids, most speech sounds should be able to be identified in good listening conditions. Speech will be affected but should be intelligible with appropriate intervention.

A **profound loss** means an average loss of 90dB+.

A person with a profound loss would not develop language and speech spontaneously. With profound hearing loss, there is inconsistency as to the benefit gained from amplification. Many people with this degree of loss can learn to discriminate most speech sounds. Others can only learn to discriminate some sounds. The ability to discriminate speech sounds depends not only on degree of loss but also on the frequencies affected and distortion factors. Spoken language will develop if the hearing loss is diagnosed early and if direct, consistent and appropriate intervention follows.

Please remember all children are different!

