

## UNILATERAL HEARING LOSS

Possible Impact on the Understanding of Language and Speech	Possible Social Impact	Potential Educational Accommodations and Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child can "hear" but can have difficulty understanding in certain situations, such as hearing faint or distant speech, especially if poor ear is aimed toward the person speaking.</li> <li>• Will typically have difficulty localizing sounds and voices using hearing alone.</li> <li>• The unilateral listener will have greater difficulty understanding speech when environment is noisy and/or reverberant, especially when normal ear is towards the overhead projector or other competing sound source and poor hearing ear is towards the teacher.</li> <li>• Exhibits difficulty detecting or understanding soft speech from the side of the poor hearing ear, especially in a group discussion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child may be accused of selective hearing due to discrepancies in speech understanding in quiet versus noise.</li> <li>• Social problems may arise as child experiences difficulty understanding in noisy cooperative learning, or recess situations.</li> <li>• May misconstrue peer conversations and feel rejected or ridiculed.</li> <li>• Child may be more fatigued in classroom due to greater effort needed to listen, if class is noisy or has poor acoustics.</li> <li>• May appear inattentive, distractible or frustrated, with behavior or social problems sometimes evident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow child to change seat locations to direct the normal hearing ear toward the primary speaker.</li> <li>• Student is at 10 times the risk for educational difficulties as children with 2 normal hearing ears and 1/3 to 1/2 of students with unilateral hearing loss experience significant learning problems.</li> <li>• Children often have difficulty learning sound/letter associations in typically noisy kindergarten and grade 1 settings.</li> <li>• Educational and audiological monitoring is warranted.</li> <li>• Teacher inservice is beneficial.</li> <li>• Typically will benefit from a personal FM system with low gain/power or a sound-field FM system in the classroom, especially in the lower grades.</li> <li>• Depending on the hearing loss, may benefit from a hearing aid in the impaired ear.</li> </ul>

**Comments:**