

Possible signs of hearing difficulties for school age children

If a child has one or more of the following signs it is possible that they are finding it harder than usual to hear.

The child:

- doesn't seem to hear their name
- says 'eh?' or 'what?' more than would usually be expected
- responds slowly to instructions or requests
- is often off task or inattentive
- gives inappropriate answers to questions
- asks for repetition or clarification of verbal instructions
- daydreams or withdraws from situations
- has difficulties interacting with peers
- intently watches the face when someone is speaking
- turns their head to listen
- watches other children / people for visual clues
- responds incorrectly or inappropriately to requests
- has obvious difficulties with speech
- misses out parts of words in writing or speech
- misses the final 's' in speech or writing
- confuses speech sounds eg. 'd' and 'g' or 't' and 'k'.
- has difficulty learning and remembering new words
- has poor or limited vocabulary for their age
- has unusually loud or quiet speech
- lacks concentration
- has difficulty in reading and spelling.

What to do if you suspect that a child is having difficulty hearing:

- Suggest to parents/carers that the child has their hearing checked by an audiologist. They will need a referral by the GP.
- Inform the SENCO/Inclusion manager and school nurse
- Follow up to ensure the child has attended an audiology appointment.
- After the audiology appointment any further queries about a child's hearing, hearing aids and / or how they are functioning can be requested from the Children's Sensory Team – Hearing Impairment (CST-HI).