

Psychosocial

The psychosocial development of the children with HI may be affected due to limited ability in sound perception. Therefore, parents can help them develop positive attitudes and social skills to facilitate a healthy body, mind and soul. Parents need to:

- ▶ Accept the hearing problem of your child and accompany him/her with a positive attitude
- ▶ Let your child understand that everyone is an independent individual and unique
- ▶ Encourage your child to accept his/her HI and be willing to tell others about his/her hearing problem and the need of wearing hearing aid. Tell your child that he/she can directly tell others that hearing aids can help people with HI hear clearly, just as people who are short-sighted can see clearly after wearing glasses
- ▶ Establish a good parent-child relationship, so that he/she will be willing to communicate with you. When encountering unpleasant experiences, such as social bullying, being teased or discriminated, he/she will take the initiative to seek help from you or teachers
- ▶ Understand that all things in their being are good for something. Therefore, you should encourage your child to make new attempts, explore his/her strengths, feel the joy of success and enhance his/her self-confidence
- ▶ Teach your child social communication skills and strategies, and have practice in actual social situations
- ▶ Encourage your child to participate in social activities and make friends, including people with normal hearing and people with HI, so that he/she can have more opportunities to communicate with others and practice the related skills
- ▶ Accompany your child to participate in social activities (if he/she shows willingness), express the listening needs of your child at an appropriate time, and help your child integrate into social communication
- ▶ Encourage your child to actively participate in different kinds of extracurricular activities to broaden his/her scope of knowledge, which is good for both learning and social networking

Home-School Cooperation

To effectively support the development of children with HI in learning, communication, psychosocial interaction, etc., home-school cooperation is essential. Parents can:

- ▶ Establish a routine communication platform with the school, contact teachers more often to understand the learning performance of your child in class. Attend Individual Education Plan meetings about your child if necessary
- ▶ Take the initiative to inform the school about the hearing status and needs of your child, and share with the school the difficulties that your child may encounter in learning
- ▶ Encourage teachers to show some attention and care about your child's usage of hearing aids and support the use of the Wireless Transmission System when necessary
- ▶ Suggest the school consider arranging inclusive activities to allow other students to know and understand the needs of students with HI, which may also provide your child with opportunities to communicate with others, develop self-confidence and self-acceptance
- ▶ Suggest the school arrange peer support if possible, for example, allowing peers to rephrase or repeat for your child when he/she cannot perceive clearly when necessary



Understanding Hearing Impairment (HI)

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Introduction

People with HI may encounter difficulties in communication and perception of external information. As parents of a child with HI, you can help your child integrate into daily and campus life effectively and have a healthy development if you adopt positive and constructive intervention. We may consider the following aspects when assisting the children with HI.

Using hearing devices

Craftsmen must first sharpen their tools before they can do a good job. If audiologists suggest hearing aid fitting for your child, you may refer to the following suggestions to assist your child to make good use of the hearing aids so as to maximise its effectiveness.

- ▶ Encourage your child to wear hearing aids, show your understanding and support that they need to get adapted to wearing hearing aids. Convey the message to your child that an appropriate hearing aid can not only help him/her make use of his/her residual hearing, but also improve the ability to perceive sound and communicate with others
- ▶ Teach your child to use his/her hearing aids properly, including checking the function of the hearing aids, checking the battery level, inspecting the condition of earmoulds, and mastering the skills of wearing and removing the hearing aids properly
- ▶ Instruct your child to keep his/her hearing aids in good conditions, including keeping them dry, cleaning earmoulds, keeping the batteries away from moisture, etc.



Hearing protection

The hearing ability of children with HI is affected by different factors. Therefore, instruct your child the followings in hearing protection:

- ▶ Avoid staying in places with high intensity of noise. Pay attention to the volume adjustment to avoid high volume when listening to music with earpieces
- ▶ Pay attention to his/her own hearing performance. If the child finds any abnormality in hearing, he/she should inform parents to arrange medical follow-up
- ▶ Pay attention to the health of the ears and always keep the ear canals dry. If there is any discomfort in any parts related to the ear, nose, throat, seek medical advice as soon as possible
- ▶ Receive regular hearing review and pay attention to his/her own hearing status

Getting along with a child with HI

Parents should pay attention to the followings and share with relatives and friends about the proper ways of getting along with children with HI so as to cultivate a friendly and inclusive environment.

- ▶ Get your child's attention before speaking, e.g. tap his/her shoulder
- ▶ Speak facing your child within a distance of two metres
- ▶ Communicate with your child at eye level and try to avoid speaking with the light at your back so that the child can clearly see your lip movements and understand the conversation by lip-reading
- ▶ Try to avoid unnecessary movements, so that your child can perceive your speech clearly

Communication skills

Children with HI communicate with others as if they are shrouded in an invisible barrel. Misunderstanding may happen as they may not perceive the speech information completely. To improve your child's communication skills, you can:

- ▶ Encourage him/her to make good use of the residual hearing and use the five senses to acquire new knowledge around
- ▶ Do not deliberately change the way you speak, because speaking at a deliberately slow pace, raising your voice or exaggerating mouth movements will affect his/her lip-reading and understanding of the content of conversation
- ▶ Try to use concise and clear expressions, and add appropriate pauses between sentences to emphasise the key points and provide sufficient time for him/her to understand the conversation
- ▶ Repeat and rephrase with simple expression or use visual cues to help your child, especially for the child with severe and profound HI, to understand the content of the speech
- ▶ Show indication when the conversation topic is changed, so that your child can follow the change, understand the content and continue the conversation
- ▶ Help your child develop repair strategies for communication so that your child can continue a conversation when he/she is unable to hear clearly or understand. For example, your child can say, "Sorry, I can't hear you clearly. Can you say it again, please?" when he/she is not sure what the speaker is speaking
- ▶ Enhance the confidence of your child in language expression and encourage him/her to express the ideas clearly. When your child is speaking, you need to listen with patience and appreciation, raise questions to clarify the content, correct the pronunciation and expand his/her vocabulary to enrich the content of the speech