

# How hearing loss can influence learning

## CHALLENGES

Will vary from student to student

- ▶ Learning new words.
- ▶ Learning language and other important concepts.
- ▶ Developing academically and feeling confident learning.



### Adjust the classroom environment

- ▶ Introduce New Zealand Sign Language.
- ▶ Improve classroom acoustics, for example, with carpet or curtains.
- ▶ Introduce technology, such as an FM or DM system.
- ▶ Arrange classroom layout so that students can see the teacher and their peers.
- ▶ Face students when you are talking so they can see your lips, your entire face, hands and gestures (communication cues that help fill in any sounds or words not clearly heard).
- ▶ Find out your student's optimum listening distance and sit them within that distance.
- ▶ Keep class noise levels low. A quiet classroom is an ideal listening environment.
- ▶ Speak clearly, but don't exaggerate your speech, which can distort speech and lip patterns.
- ▶ Avoid talking while students are doing noisy, distracting activities.
- ▶ Have one person speaking at a time.



## Present curriculum content in different ways

- ▶ Use a range of visual learning materials.
- ▶ Use handouts, New Zealand Sign Language translation services, YouTube clips (with captions), posters and diagrams.
- ▶ Use visual resources to help students recall information.
- ▶ Highlight and repeat new words, phrases and concepts and give them to students as handouts.
- ▶ Use captioned DVDs.
- ▶ Rephrase things in different ways instead of repeating – some words are more difficult to understand than others.

## TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES



### Stimulate interest and motivation for learning

- ▶ Integrate New Zealand Sign Language as a curriculum subject.
- ▶ Set the pace of your communication to suit Deaf and hearing-impaired students.
- ▶ Allow time for students to process and think about a topic before responding.



### Use technology

- ▶ Check whether technology such as an FM or DM system works well for students.
- ▶ Encourage Deaf and hearing-impaired students to find out and share how their hearing aids and technology work.