

## Tips on setting up your learning space at home



It is important to set up an optimal learning environment at home so deaf/hard of hearing children can learn successfully. Here are some simple steps you can follow:

### Managing noise



Competing noise makes listening difficult for all children, but the impact is even greater for children with a hearing loss. Good listening conditions are created when the signal, i.e. your voice, is significantly louder than the background noise.

Plan sessions that rely on listening at times of the day when external background noise is low.

Encourage other children to work quietly or in a separate area wherever possible. A high level of background noise is distracting for everyone but especially those with a hearing loss.

Set up your learning at home area where there is carpet or a rug on the floor to reduce the noise made by the movement of children and furniture. If this is not possible, place felt or coasters under any movable furniture.

Sit close to your child when you are working with them to ensure they receive a strong signal through their hearing devices and can access speechreading cues. A distance of one to two metres is best.

Make sure your child has easy visual access to the speaker's face. Make sure the light source is on your face not theirs. Don't sit or stand in front of a window or bright light as this creates a shadow on your face.

If your child has better hearing in one ear make sure the main sound source is on the side that has the better hearing. Be aware that when an environment is noisy, the student with a hearing loss will rely more on visual cues.

Attach FM systems to media such as the iPad when listening to stories or watching videos and turn captions on when watching the TV, videos and YouTube.

### Managing listening devices and assistive technology



Regardless of the type of listening device being used by your child, it is critical that the device is:

- working correctly
- worn regularly
- used appropriately.

**The link below provides information on how to do a daily check of your child's hearing aid:**

[Hearing Australia](#)