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Message from the Editor

HEARSAY is a newsletter for school professionals in Arkansas who are educating students who are deaf/hard of hearing. Each issue will include information, resources, and tips for working with this unique student population. We'd love to hear from you and address topics you suggest. Please email your questions/suggestions to ears@archildrens.org.

Hearing Aid Care Kit...Read All About It!

Check out this great care kit from Microsonic that can be ordered online for your school. This kit includes all of the essentials that you would need at school to keep your students hearing aids clean and dry!

<http://store.microsonic-inc.com/921-parentsschoolkit.aspx>

The care kit includes:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ⇒ 1 soft bag | ⇒ 1 Dry Cup & Capsule |
| ⇒ Stethoscope | ⇒ Cleansing Spray |
| ⇒ Battery Tester | ⇒ EZ-Gel |
| ⇒ 10 Cleansing Wipes | ⇒ Cleaning Tools |



Stop Repeating Yourself! ~ By Focusing on Classroom Acoustics

Not all classrooms are built equally. Era of construction, architect's style, engineer's background—all play a role in creating the space in which teachers educate students. And function rarely overshadows form. So what can be done for those spaces with a lesser than ideal acoustic environment? An environment in which reverberation and background noise literally have everyone talking over each other...other...other (reverberation pun?). Need ideas to make the acoustics in your classroom better? Try these! And let us know what works best for you at ears@archildrens.org.

Amplify the teacher's voice – reduce the impact of background noise

- Classroom soundfield system – increase signal-to-noise ratio for teacher's message
- Personal FM/DM system for students with amplification devices (hearing aids, cochlear implants or BAI)
- Turn off noisy equipment when it is not in use (projectors, fans, etc.)
- Try to keep windows and doors closed when possible

Soften up hard surfaces to reduce reverberation

- Acoustic wall panels/tiles
- Install acoustical ceiling tiles
- Install door seals
- Rugs/carpet remnants along with an acoustic rug pad
- Hang soft materials such as felt or corkboard on the walls
- or get creative and use "float/pool noodles" used in the water as decoration tools
- Hang window treatments such as curtains or blinds
- Hang soft materials such as flags or student artwork around the room and from the ceiling

Focus on a Good Communication Environment

- Talk to the students about noise and demonstrate how it can be difficult to hear when many children are talking at the same time
- Place tables facing the area you teach from for optimal visual and acoustical benefits
- Avoid open classrooms where many classes are taught in a large space
- Avoid dividing the class into groups where one group is listening to audiovisual equipment such as the TV and the other group is listening to the teacher

Ideas for classroom acoustic modifications taken from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) website:
<http://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Classroom-Acoustics/>

Cared to Share!

Conversing with someone over the phone can be challenging for anyone! Take away the non-verbal cues + add in noise in your environment = perfect set-up for grandma to think you are going to your fair appointment instead of your hair appointment. One way to help lessen those mis-understandings is with phone captioning. Look into these phone captioning apps/options and find one that works well for you or someone you know and add some clarity back into those conversations!

- * CapTel via my iPhone
- * CaptionCall
- * InnoCaption

EARS Resources

YouTube

Just a reminder to take a look at our YouTube Channel. We have lots of informational video clips which might be helpful to you when working with your students.

<http://tinyurl.com/EARSVideosPlaylist>

HEARSAY

This link will take you to our newsletter, HEARSAY. We typically publish 3-4 issues per year. As new issues are added, you will have access to them via this link.

<https://tinyurl.com/EARSHearSayNewletters>