



The Importance of Hearing



What Is Hearing Loss?©

Introduction:

Discuss: How do you hear? What can you hear? Can you hear the soft sounds of a baby bird chirping? Can you hear your friend whisper in your ear? Sometimes we can't hear those soft sounds. Sometimes we need glasses to help us see and hearing aids or a cochlear implant to help us hear. Why do you need to hear? It is important to hear for learning, safety, playing with friends, listening to Mom and Dad and many more reasons

Brainstorm: Make a list of all of your favorite sounds.

Read: *Oliver Gets Hearing Aids* by Phonak Hearing Systems and *'Hear' is Veronica: A Book About Cochlear Implants* by Annette Schroeder

Discuss: Do you know anyone who has a hearing loss? Hearing aids and cochlear implants are amazing technologies that can help people of all ages hear all of the wonderful sounds on our list!

Audiologist:

Show the class the instruments used to look in and check their ears. Discuss why we sometimes need to go to the ear doctor. Discuss the parts of the ear and how delicate they are.

Show the class a hearing aid, and talk about how it helps them hear. How does it work (on/off switch)? Show them that there is a battery that must have juice in order for the hearing aids to work. Discuss the importance of telling the teacher, audiologist, and Mom or Dad if the hearing aids are not working. Discuss being very careful with the hearing aids, not touching the buttons, and not getting them wet.

Show the class a cochlear implant and talk about how it helps them hear. How does it work (a tiny computer makes it possible to understand sounds and speech)? Show them the internal part and the external part and discuss that it needs special batteries to work. Discuss the importance of telling the teacher, audiologist, and Mom or Dad if the cochlear implant is not working. Discuss being very careful with the implant, not touching the buttons, and not getting it wet.

Discuss: Does hearing loss ever go away? How important is your hearing? How can we protect our ears and our hearing?

Activity: Discuss and color the CHS Better Hearing and Speech Month coloring page!

Vocabulary to Know: cochlea, sound waves, ear drum, ear canal, hearing aid, cochlear implant