

More ways to more words in the classroom



- A CLASSROOM GUIDE FOR TEACHERS







A comfortable learning environment – for everyone

If you have a child with hearing loss in your class, there are a few simple things you can do to help them get the most out of their classroom experience. Improving the acoustics in the classroom will benefit all of your students – and you. Reducing background noise and sound reflections not only makes it easier to understand speech, it also creates a calmer working and learning environment for everyone.

We outline simple ways of reducing noise and reflections, and promoting clearer speech. Most of our suggestions involve rearranging classroom furniture and decoration, and making a few simple modifications to chairs and tables. But, we also suggest introducing a little bit of unintrusive technology. Extremely simple to use, the ReSound Micro Mic and ReSound Multi Mic make sure any child in your class with hearing loss won't miss a word.

If you use iPads in the classroom, any children in your class with ReSound Smart Hearing aids will be able to stream the sound directly from the iPad to their hearing aids.

Here's a three-step approach to creating a learning environment that's comfortable for everyone.

1 LESS NOISE

There's probably more background noise in your classroom than you realise. The first thing to do is to stand still in the middle of your classroom when it's empty and just listen. If there's a lot of noise outside from traffic or a building site, your best bet would be to ask for another classroom away from the noise.

Next, listen for noise inside the classroom. Is there a printer that hums? A desktop computer with a noisy cooling fan? You may not notice them, but to someone wearing hearing aids, they can sound intrusively loud. Simple solution: turn them off when not in use.

Finally, you could add rubber or felt pads to the bottom of chair and table legs. Imagine, no more scraping sounds as your children shuffle around during class.







2

FEWER REFLECTIONS

Now, still standing in the middle of your classroom, clap your hands. How long does it take for the sound to fade away? This is the echo. If it is three seconds or more, it will be quite hard for any child to hear you clearly. It will be even harder for a child wearing hearing aids.

The first step to reducing reflections is to put up curtains. Windows are hard, reflective surfaces, and if your classroom has a lot of them, hanging curtains will have an instant positive impact.

Does your classroom have bare walls? These also cause reflections. You could install bookcases and fill them with a variety of things of all shapes and sizes. You could also try covering your walls with your children's artwork – the more varied the materials and textures the better.

3

CLEARER SPEECH

People with hearing loss find it easier to understand speech if they can see the speaker's face. In fact, we all do. After all, it's often cited that two thirds of all communication is non-verbal.

Is the seating in your classroom arranged around desks? If so, you could consider moving them into rows. Or you could simply make sure that your child with hearing loss sits so he faces you at all times. It's probably best if he sits near the front of the classroom. And, even though it can be tricky when you write on the board, try not to turn your back on the class while you are talking.





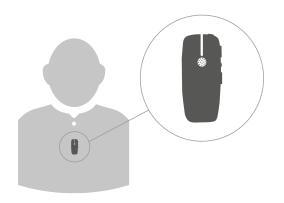




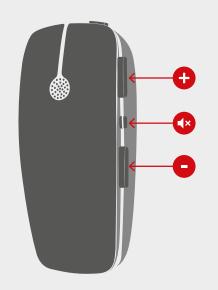
RESOUND MICRO MIC

PART OF RESOUND SMART HEARING









MUTE/UNMUTE
THE STREAMED
SOUND



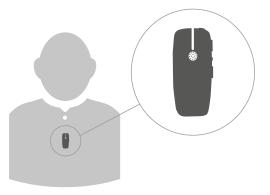
AS LONG AS YOU ARE **IN CLEAR LINE OF SIGHT**



RESOUND MULTI MIC

PART OF RESOUND SMART HEARING

YOUR STUDENT HEAR YOU CLEARLY

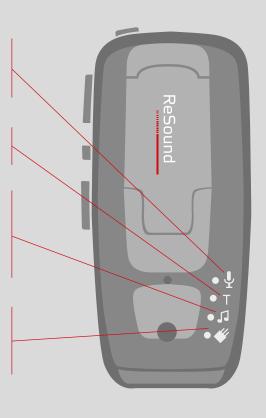




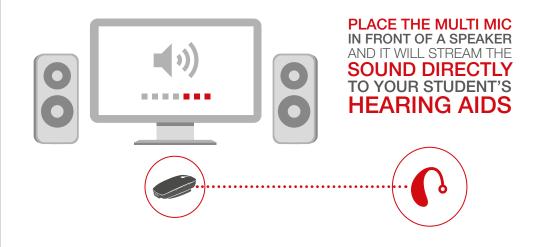
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