

UDL General Support

Listening Supports

Listening Supports maximize student listening engagement. When testing students with hearing loss, it is important to check individual student IEPs or 504 plans for specific accommodations and modifications. Teachers can incorporate some general supports to improve all students' abilities to hear directions and information during assessment.

Tips for communicating with students who have hearing loss:

- Sit about 3 feet from the student. If a student hears better out of one ear, sit on that side in front of the student.
- Get the student's attention first. Face the student with your body.
- Maintain eye contact.
- Use visual cues. Allow students a chance to look at the visual and provide short silences so they can process the meaning of both the visual and what is being said.
- Keep your face visible and do not cover your mouth.
- Avoid moving while talking.
- Avoid sitting in front of windows (shadow effect).
- Use of properly-functioning FM system and/or hearing assistive technology (hearing aids, cochlear implants) if applicable.
- If a student says, "What?," before making the statement again, ask the student, "What did you hear?"
- Speak at a normal rate and volume. Slow down when needed.
- Utilize sign language interpreters to facilitate communication during testing.
- Test in a quiet location.
- Reduce background noise.
- Give students the option to respond in a preferred method - written form, sign language, etc.
- Give students breaks as needed.



- Allow students silent time to process visuals in the test before giving other information. For example, allow students time to look carefully at graphs or shapes before asking questions about them.

