All children can benefit from an optimized listening environment, but especially students with hearing loss.

**Advocating** for your child may mean talking with the teacher or school administrators about your child’s specific needs. Encourage children to advocate for themselves by:

- Explaining the importance of asking questions
- Educating them about their devices and having a troubleshooting plan
- Encouraging them to teach their friends about their devices and hearing loss

Teachers can benefit as well! Using a classroom microphone system and lowering background noise can lead to less vocal strain.

To find a pediatric audiologist near you, please visit one of the links below:

http://webportal.audiology.org/Custom/FindAnAudiologist.aspx

http://www.asha.org/profind/

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### Definition

**Classroom optimization** is necessary because classrooms can be noisy, which makes it hard to hear the teacher.

**Listening fatigue** can occur when students with hearing loss become tired of struggling to hear the teacher.

Different steps can be taken to make sure all students can hear the teacher well! Most steps are aimed at enhancing the signal to noise ratio (SNR) in the classroom.

### Classroom Modifications

**Talk to your child’s teacher about the possibility of using any of these options!**

**Preferential seating**
Your child should be given a seat that is best for hearing the teacher and classmates.

**Visual supplements**
Visual aids like captions, schedules, and blackboards can help all students participate.

**Notetaking**
Another student in the class may share written notes with your child, which allows your child to concentrate on listening.

### Reducing Background Noise

**SNR** is the difference between the loudness of the teacher’s voice compared to the loudness of the noise in the room. The goal is to make the teacher’s voice louder and the noise quieter, which leads to a higher SNR.

**Assistive listening devices** give children better access to speech by sending the teacher’s voice directly to their devices. This allows your child to hear the teacher wherever they are sitting.

**FM Systems**

**Hearing or Induction Loop Systems**

If your child qualifies, the school will work with you to develop a 504 Plan or IEP. Team members may include:
- General Education Teachers
- Teachers of the Deaf
- Speech Language Pathologists
- Educational Audiologists