

## STRATEGIES TO MINIMISE THE EFFECTS OF AN AUDITORY PROCESSING DIFFICULTY (HIGH SCHOOLS AND BEYOND)



- Acknowledge the problem! Reassure the student that listening is difficult, but there are things you are going to try that will help
- Consider a trial of an assisted listening device such as an Edulink. [www.phonak.com](http://www.phonak.com) .
- Seek advice on improving existing listening conditions
- Written instructions to support the verbal – but staff should also check student`s understanding – this will be particularly important in examinations and tests.
- If possible, a written lesson outline and glossaries of terms in advance of the lesson so that the student knows what to expect and is “cued in” to the topic. If in-class learning support is available, then note taking by a learning assistant will enable him/her to check the accuracy of his own notes and also allow him/her to concentrate on what the teacher is saying, rather than split attention from listening to writing. If this is not possible, perhaps photocopies of notes taken by a reliable fellow student could be organised.
- Consider specific training to develop note-taking skills. Picking out the salient points is often difficult.
- Use of a lap top computer to help with organising work, memory and planning
- Encourage effective use of a diary and “To Do” lists to organise and remember life!
- Use memo facility on mobile phone
- Encourage student to sit in the best possible place – this could be at the front and to the side so that it is easier to swivel from teacher to class and focus on speakers during discussions.
- Ask student discreetly to repeat back what he has been asked to do. This will build comprehension skills and ensure messages have been understood correctly.
- Give student the opportunity work in a quiet space if this helps
- Give written instructions in clear bullet pointed steps.
- Some students find it helpful to record the lesson/lecture for review later. This is especially useful when new information is being given.
- Provide visual aids and prompts
- Consider fitting acoustic screens (also worth considering in offices – particularly if open plan)

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