

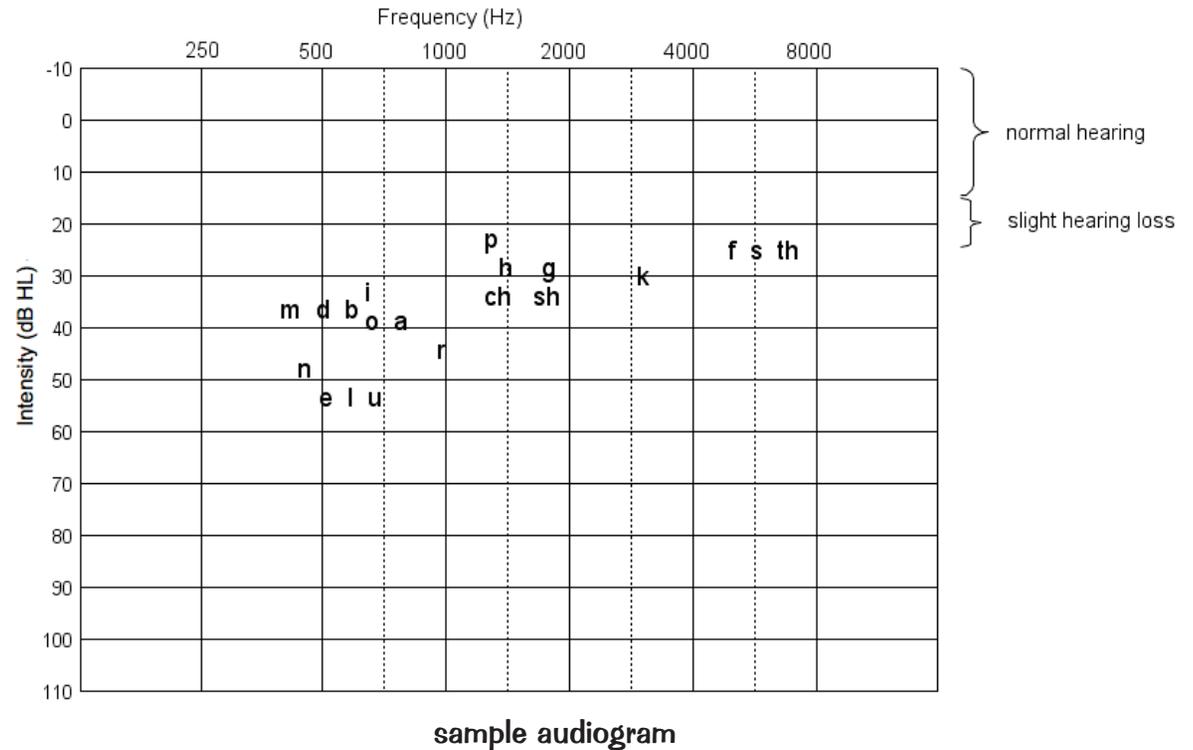
## What is slight hearing loss?

Normal hearing sensitivity is defined as hearing at 15 dB or better. A slight hearing loss is defined as hearing sounds beginning around 20-25 dB.

## How does this amount of hearing loss affect my child?

The effects of slight hearing loss are subtle, but may include difficulty in:

- hearing faint or distant speech (when a person is at a distance greater than three feet)
- hearing the fine distinctions in word sounds, such as the “s” sound in plurals, (lady vs. ladies) and possessives (Tommy vs. Tommy’s). Verb tenses might also be unclear (is vs. was, fill vs. filled).
- hearing in background noise, such as a noisy classroom or restaurant, or with the television on in the room
- following a fast-paced conversation
- picking up subtle conversational cues
- focusing on what the teacher is saying in the classroom



## What does this mean for my child?

Your child might experience problems like these:

- Your child might have difficulty in school when the classroom is noisy or if he or she is not seated close to the teacher.
- Your child might become fatigued in school from the increased effort it takes to listen.

- Your child might respond inappropriately if he or she has missed parts of a conversation.

## What can I do to help my child in the classroom?

- You can make sure your child’s teacher knows about your child’s hearing loss.
- Your child should sit close to the teacher where good eye contact is possible.

- If your child has one ear that hears better, that ear should be on the side closer to the teacher.
- Your child might benefit from a soundfield or personal FM system. In these systems, the teacher wears a microphone which transmits either to a headset worn by your child, or to speakers in the classroom. In both cases, the teacher's voice is amplified so that it is more easily heard above the background noise of the classroom. Speak to your audiologist or teacher of the deaf/hard of hearing to find out whether your child might benefit from an FM system.

### How do I read the audiogram?

This graph is called an audiogram, and is used to display the results of a hearing test. This graph shows the normal hearing and slight hearing loss categories. Some speech sounds are shown on the graph, indicating the frequency (pitch) and intensity (loudness) of each sound.

- Across the top of the graph are numbers representing frequency (pitch). These numbers (measured in Hz) represent the frequencies (pitches) of the sound presented to your child. The low frequencies are on the left and the high frequencies are on the right.

- On the left side of the graph are numbers representing the intensity (or loudness). The further towards the bottom of the graph, the louder the speech sound. In terms of hearing loss, the further towards the bottom of the graph, the more severe the hearing loss.

### Contact information:

Audiology Department

Room K2-192

Hours: 8:30 to 4:30

(604) 875-2112

website: [http://www.](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ClinicalDiagnosticFamilyServices/Audiology/default.htm)

[bcchildrens.ca/Services/](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ClinicalDiagnosticFamilyServices/Audiology/default.htm)

[ClinicalDiagnosticFamilyServices/](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ClinicalDiagnosticFamilyServices/Audiology/default.htm)

[Audiology/default.htm](http://www.bcchildrens.ca/Services/ClinicalDiagnosticFamilyServices/Audiology/default.htm)

*Developed by the health care professionals  
of the Audiology Department with  
assistance from the Department of  
Learning & Development*

BCCH1407 © 2006 BC Children's Hospital

# When Your Child Has a Slight Hearing Loss



An agency of the Provincial  
Health Services Authority

4480 Oak Street Vancouver, B.C. V6H 3V4

604-875-2345

[www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca)