

Monaural Hearing Loss

Monaural or unilateral hearing loss affects one ear only. Permanent damage to the nerves of one ear is most often the result of a viral infection, such as mumps, during childhood. Depending on the cause, prognosis and child's functioning, a hearing aid may or may not be appropriate.

The time of onset of the hearing loss will determine the degree to which a child's linguistic development is likely to be affected, the more developed the child's language and communication skills, the less serious the implication in terms of future linguistic progress.

If the child loses hearing while developmentally young and with little experience of communication, it is to be expected that speech and communication skills will be slower to develop.

Other problems will arise from having effective hearing in one ear only: -

- Difficulty in locating the source of a sound, searching around to identify a speaker.
- Difficulty picking out the 'target' sound from background noise, even in 'normal' noise situations such as a classroom.
- Child may seem 'rude' through ignoring, interrupting, shouting, or jumping to conclusions because of limited auditory input.
- Tiredness from strain of concentrating and listening for long periods of time.

How to help in the classroom

- Pupils with this type of hearing loss may tire more quickly than children who are hearing.
- In school the child must sit with their good ear towards the speaker.

- They should not sit with their good ear close to the wall or window.
- Remember a pupil with a one-sided hearing loss may miss contributions from other members of the class. It is really helpful when the teacher reflects back what is being said.
- If pupils and friends are aware, they soon learn to speak helpfully on the correct side.
- In most classrooms the sound echoes and a pupil with one-sided deafness may miss much of what is said, because they are less able to filter out the unwanted sounds.
- Correct positioning is crucial and may affect a pupil's educational and social development.
- When a pupil is listening to the radio or TV they may not hear if spoken to by a teacher.

- If teachers use headphones during lessons they should be aware that the pupil can only hear on one side.
- If the pupil's hearing seems to be deteriorating then the hearing in the good ear should be checked at the audiology clinic.

**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
MERTHYR TUDFUL**

**MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL

MONAURAL HEARING LOSS

LEARNING DEPARTMENT

Adran Dysgu

Contact number

Learning Department
Civic Centre
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8AN
Tel: - 01685 724642

Useful ICT Websites/Organisations

www.rnid.org.uk

www.ndcs.org.uk

www.batod.org.uk

www.cafamily.org.uk

www.deafeducation.org.uk

www.sense.org.uk

www.bda.org.uk

www.signcommunity.org.uk

Merthyr Talking Hands-01685384198

Useful Publications

Using residual hearing effectively

Effective inclusion of deaf pupils into
mainstream

Guidelines for mainstream teachers with deaf
pupils in their class

Promoting literacy in deaf pupils

Promoting numeracy in deaf pupils

NDCS

Deaf Friendly Nurseries

Deaf Friendly Schools

Deaf Friendly Teaching