

What can my Child Hear?

Clinically, hearing loss is described:

- as a decibel (dB) hearing level
- as a mild, moderate, severe or profound hearing loss

It is not accurate to describe hearing loss as a percentage (i.e., 60 percent Deaf).



Residual hearing is the amount of usable hearing.

Most children will have some amount of **residual hearing**. Residual hearing is the amount of usable hearing. Your audiologist and support team will be able to give you more information about the degree of hearing loss and can explain the sounds that your child may hear, as well as the sounds that he would

not be expected to hear. The potential effects of a hearing loss, however, depends on many factors. These factors include degree, shape and type of loss, age at diagnosis, intervention services and parent involvement.

Adapted from:

[-Educators' Resource Guide, Manitoba Education, 2009](#)

To better understand what your child is hearing, your family may want to try a **hearing loss simulator**. Hearing loss is complex and often involves not only loss of volume, but also specific sounds. Blocking out sound or plugging your ears likely won't provide you with a comparable experience.

Hearing loss simulation programs allow you to experience not only different losses, but also different environments and sounds, such as a crowded restaurant, traffic noise or popular music. There are several free and paid programs available to stream or download online. A list of resources is provided below. This may be an important activity for immediate and extended family

members, siblings, friends, teachers and classmates to share in order to better understand what hearing loss sounds like.

Please note that some programs are more 'user friendly' than others. Some require the use of a PC, while some require a Mac or iPad. Please read the instructions or specifications clearly before use. The programs listed below were all free to use at the time of print.

Free Hearing Loss Simulators

Demonstrations: Simulated listening with hearing loss & devices from *Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss*. Provides links and information for several online simulation tools that involve hearing loss, FM systems, Cochlear Implants and Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder
<http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/demonstrations>

Hearing loss simulators compiled by Bauman, N. at the *Centre for Hearing Loss Help*. Provides links to several simulation programs.
<http://hearinglosshelp.com/blog/hearing-loss-simulators/>