

## DEGREE OF AUDITORY IMPAIRMENT

Below is a table, which explains the varying degrees of auditory impairment.

HEARING THRESHOLD LEVEL	EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS
15 to 30 decibels (dB) Slight to Mild hearing loss	May have some difficulty understanding speech if faint or distant. The louder, voiced speech sounds (for example, vowel sounds) and b, n, d and other sounds that have vocal vibration are audible, but voiceless consonants (such as th, s, sh, f) may be missed. Will generally benefit from amplification. Speech will be important for communication.
30 to 50 decibels (dB) Moderate hearing loss	Must be within a few feet of the speaker to understand speech. Many speech sounds at a normal conversational level will be missed. Will benefit from amplification in most cases. Speech can be an important part of communication for some with this degree of loss.
50 to 70 decibels (dB) Severe hearing loss	Speech must be very loud and at very close range to be understood at all. Group conversations are difficult. Can hear loud environmental sounds. Amplification will likely be helpful. May benefit from non-speech language alternatives, such as sign language.
70 decibels (dB) or greater. Profound hearing loss	Little reliance on hearing as primary channel for communication. Visual communication will be most beneficial. Will likely benefit from sign language, which may be combined with amplification to provide speechreading and to allow perception of rhythm patterns of speech and loud environmental sounds.