

**EFFECT OF HEARING LOSS ON
AUDITORY, SPEECH, AND LANGUAGE SKILLS
(WHEN LOSS OCCURS PRIOR TO LANGUAGE AND SPEECH ACQUISITION)**

MILD HEARING LOSS

25-40 DB

- CAN UNDERSTAND AVERAGE CONVERSATIONAL SPEECH AT A DISTANCE OF 3 FEET
- CAN CARRY ON FACE TO FACE CONVERSATION WITHOUT DIFFICULTY
- MAY MISS AS MUCH AS 50% OF CLASS DISCUSSION IF VOICES ARE FAINT OR NOT IN LINE OF VISION
- MAY EXHIBIT MILD SPEECH PROBLEMS IF LOSS IS OF A HIGH FREQUENCY TYPE
- MAY EXHIBIT LIMITED VOCABULARY

MODERATE HEARING LOSS

40-60 DB

- CAN UNDERSTAND LOUD CONVERSATION AT ABOUT 3 FEET
- WILL HAVE INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN SCHOOL SITUATIONS REQUIRING PARTICIPATION IN GROUP DISCUSSIONS
- MAY HAVE SPEECH DIFFICULTY, PARTICULARLY WITH THE HIGH FREQUENCY, LOW INTENSITY SOUNDS SUCH AS S, Z, CH, SH
- WILL LIKELY EXPERIENCE LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES
- WILL HAVE EVIDENCE OF LIMITED VOCABULARY

SEVERE HEARING LOSS

60-90 DB

- WILL HEAR LOUD NOISES SUCH AS CAR HORNS, DOGS BARKING, LAWN MOWERS
- MAY BE ABLE TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN VOWELS AT CLOSE RANGE BUT WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH MOST CONSONANTS
- MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT DELAYS IN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL REQUIRE INTERVENTION

PROFOUND HEARING LOSS

90 DB +

- UNAWARE OF LOUD NOISES BUT MAY RESPOND TO SOUND VIBRATIONS
- WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT DELAYS IN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT WHICH WILL REQUIRE INTERVENTION