



USING REMOTE MICROPHONE SYSTEMS

The above named student who is Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH) is currently using a Remote Microphone system. In this situation, the talker uses a transmitter/microphone which sends the audio signal wirelessly to a receiver used by the student. Sometimes the receiver is stand-alone (e.g., ear level receiver or a speaker system) and sometimes the receiver is coupled to personal amplification (hearing aid(s), cochlear implant(s), bone anchored hearing system) via an adapter. You should have also received a handout that describes your student's type and degree of hearing loss more specifically. The following are some general considerations related to the use of a Remote Microphone system.

When a student uses personal amplification, the speech signal and background noise are often equally amplified. When compared to students with normal hearing, students who are D/HH require a greater signal-to-noise ratio (i.e., we want the teacher's voice level to be louder in relation to the background noise) for understanding. Remote microphone systems are recommended for students in this situation to help compensate for normal levels of classroom background noise.

The transmission range can be as much as 100 feet. The overall effect is that the talker's voice comes in clearer than the background noise and the signal is at a constant loudness since the transmitter/microphone is in a fixed position from the talker's mouth. If the teacher is standing close to the student or is located on the other side of the room, the signal remains robust. This makes it much easier for the student to hear and increases his/her ability to follow orally presented material. In addition to hearing the teacher's voice, the Remote Microphone system is set up such that the student will also be able to hear their own voice and the incidental sounds (e.g., other students' voices, environmental sounds) around them.

Remote Microphone systems do involve more equipment than personal amplification and initially, they may require slightly more work for both the student and teacher. With a little bit of practice and assistance from the staff who serve students who are D/HH, this will quickly fit into the daily routines of your classroom. Remote Microphone systems can provide a significant amount of benefit to these students.

Specific considerations:

1. The transmitter/microphone needs to be located about 5-6" from your mouth. You will either have a small microphone at the end of a cord that can be clipped to your shirt or lapel (lapel microphone), a microphone that has a band that fits over/behind your head with the microphone sitting in front of your mouth (boom microphone) or a larger all-in-one unit (lavalier microphone) that is worn around your neck.
2. For the student to obtain benefit, all components must be in good working order. A daily listening check is helpful, and someone from our office can show you a quick procedure for this.
3. Students should use the Remote Microphone system every day. If the units are not working properly, problems should be reported to the itinerant teacher or the audiologist.
4. The teacher unit will need to be charged every night. If the student is using a neckloop receiver, this will need to be charged as well. This will be done in your classroom unless the units are being kept with the itinerant teacher or the resource teacher of students who are D/HH.
5. **ANY** sound near the teacher's microphone will be transmitted to the student's receiver. This includes coughs, sneezes, and private conversations and sounds outside the classroom (like the bathroom!). You will want mute or turn off your microphone for any noise of conversations that you do not want your student who is D/HH to overhear. Also, please do not let necklaces, badges, lanyards or anything else worn around the neck, repeatedly hit the microphone.
6. Like hearing aids and cochlear implants, Remote Microphone systems do not restore normal hearing. The student will communicate best if s/he's seated near you and can see your face when you are speaking. Some students will continue to benefit from the use of sign language and/or an interpreter in the mainstream classroom.

These systems can cost up to **\$2500** - 1 teacher transmitter + student receiver(s) - to replace. PLEASE do not put equipment where they might be misplaced, knocked over and broken, or taken home by mistake. You will be provided with a container to keep these pieces in a secure, consistent location.

Please contact the itinerant Teacher of the D/HH or CASE Audiology immediately if you have any questions or problems with the equipment.