



Urbana District #116 – Administrative Agent

CASE Audiology  
809 N. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 355-1214 or -1254 (v) / (217) 355-1265 (f)  
Beth Parrott, Au.D., CCC-A ([bparrott@usd116.org](mailto:bparrott@usd116.org))  
Tina Childress, Au.D., CCC-A ([tchildress@usd116.org](mailto:tchildress@usd116.org))

TO: THE TEACHER OF

FROM:

DATE:

---

The above-named student in your class uses a bone-anchored hearing aid (sometimes referred to as a “BAHA” or “Ponto”). It can be used to help people with chronic ear infections, congenital atresia (malformation of the pinna and/or ear canal) and single-sided deafness, who cannot benefit from conventional hearing aids. This type of hearing aid takes an acoustic signal, routes it through an oscillator which then vibrates the skull to directly reach the sensory organs of the inner ear, bypassing the outer and middle ear which may have obstructions blocking sound. The system may be surgically implanted or it may be worn using a headband.

You should have also received a handout that describes your student’s type and degree hearing loss more specifically. Following are some general considerations related to amplification:

1. Hearing aids amplify all sounds including voices and noises. They make sounds LOUDER, but not necessarily c-l-e-a-r-e-r.
2. Hearing aids pick up sounds most efficiently at an arm’s length away. They become much less effective for sounds from a greater distance.
3. The best benefits and adjustment to amplification occurs with consistent use. It is important that the student use her/his bone-anchored hearing aid(s) consistently at school.
4. There may be times when noise is so excessive (i.e. gymnasium, outside in the wind, during band, etc.) that the noise becomes uncomfortably loud. The student should be allowed to turn down her/his personal amplification if s/he complains that the noise is uncomfortable.
5. Older students should be able to care for their personal amplification independently. Younger children will likely need help. The bone-anchored hearing aid is of no benefit if it is not in good working order, and it will be extremely helpful to your student if you can help her/him monitor the hearing aid function. Our staff is available to meet with you to go over the care and operation of this device.
6. If the child complains of pain in the area of their bone-anchored hearing system, please contact the parent immediately. It may be a sign of infection which must be addressed quickly.
7. Extra hearing aid batteries should be kept at school. For younger children, the batteries should be stored in a safe place, as ***they are toxic and easily swallowed***. If a child should swallow a battery contact a physician and call (collect) the ***NATIONAL BUTTON BATTERY HOTLINE (202) 625-3333***.

If you notice the student’s grades slowly deteriorating or if there is a sudden change in her/his performance and participation in class, please contact CASE Audiology. We can help you determine to what extent their auditory access is a factor, and whether or not interventions or accommodations are indicated. We are also available to help you with units you may be presenting to your class related to communication, the ear, hearing, hearing differences, hearing conservation, personal amplification, assistive technology, Deaf Culture, sign language and other D/HH role models.