



TO: THE TEACHER OF

FROM:

DATE:

The above named student in your class has had a history of middle ear dysfunction and a fluctuating hearing loss. With this type of hearing loss the student's hearing is usually worse when s/he is congested, has a cold, has an ear infection, or has fluid in the middle ear. The hearing loss can fluctuate from day to day or from week to week. Usually, the transitions between seasons, Fall, Winter and Spring are the worst times of the year for ear infections and middle ear fluid.

Students with fluctuating hearing loss from middle ear dysfunction frequently have difficulty following directions, learning auditorily presented information, listening to a speaker if there is background noise present and can be generally less responsive. These students may also show other symptoms related to the medical condition of their ears or related to the medications they are taking. There may instances of ear drainage or complaints of pain. They could be less attentive, more active, more subdued, or more irritable.

There are steps you, the classroom teacher, can take to help this student:

1. Be aware that this student does have a hearing problem and may become easily fatigued. Your continued awareness of the hearing loss may be the most beneficial help that can be provided.
2. If you notice that s/he is having difficulty hearing in the classroom or complaining of pain, be certain that the parents are aware of the problem since the child may need to be seen by an audiologist and/or physician.
3. During times when her/his hearing is poor have her/him sit:
 - a. near the area of the classroom from which you usually address the class
 - b. away from noise sources such as fans, media equipment, windows, doorways, and pencil sharpeners. This should help her/him concentrate on your voice.
 - c. in a position that she/he is able to turn and face other students during class discussion
4. Use visual aids on the board or in printed format to help reinforce concepts or directions.
5. Speak naturally to her/him, as you would speak to anyone else. If what you say is not understood, rephrase it, rather than repeating. Obtain feedback regularly from your student to check on her/his level of understanding.

Please contact CASE Audiology if you have additional questions about middle ear dysfunction with fluctuating hearing loss or if you feel this student needs further help.