



## Educational Audiology/Speech Pathology Resources for Schools (EARS) Program

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The Educational Audiology/Speech Pathology Resources for Schools (EARS) program is an outreach service of the Audiology and Speech Pathology Department at Arkansas Children's.

The purpose of the EARS program is to provide on-site, school-based/educational audiology services and specialized speech-language pathology consultation for school districts, educational cooperatives, preschool programs and other educational settings in order to address the needs of students who have hearing loss or other auditory disorders.

### Audiological Services

- Assist with school hearing screening programs especially for students who cannot participate in a traditional screening or who cannot pass the screening
- Provide information regarding classroom management strategies for students with auditory processing disorders
- Perform educationally relevant audiological evaluations
- Conduct hearing aid analysis/troubleshooting
- Select, evaluate and fit a variety of hearing assistive technology
- Assist school personnel in making appropriate medical & educational referrals
- Provide counseling and guidance to students/parents/teachers regarding the effects of hearing loss
- Provide training/consultation and interpretation of audiological information for school personnel
- Participate in the development of Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and 504 plans
- Conduct hearing conservation education
- Assess classroom acoustics and make recommendations for improved listening environments

### Speech-Language Pathology Services

- Provide and/or assist with school-based, comprehensive speech-language and specialized auditory skill assessments
- Assist in goal writing for IEPs and treatment/lesson plans
- Mentor school-based speech-language pathologists working with students who have hearing loss (onsite or remotely)
- Provide on-site or remote demonstration/modeling of specific techniques in therapy session
- Guide school-based personnel in the inclusion of auditory and language skills in the classroom setting
- Provide observations of potential educational placements



For more information contact:

### The EARS Program

501-680-2718 (EARS Hotline)

[ears@archildren.org](mailto:ears@archildren.org)

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Arkansas Children's Hospital

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# Champions for Children

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## Did you know?

- Educational research studies show that learning is dependent on the ability to communicate with spoken language and that perception of spoken language is the foundation for the ability to read and write.
- As much as 60% of classroom learning activities typically involve listening to, and participating in, spoken communications with the teacher and other students - disruption of this communication can affect students' scholastic achievement.
- Most classrooms do not meet the ANSI recommendation for ambient noise levels.
- On any given day, 43% of elementary level students could fail a basic hearing screening due to otitis media (ear infections).
- 25% of children have fluid in the middle ear without apparent signs of ear pain or fever, and it is not always true that the child will complain of an earache or have fever before their hearing can be affected.
- At least 131 of every 1,000 school-age children have some degree of hearing loss that impacts learning and development.
- Students using a classroom soundfield amplification system have shown a 12% average improvement on vocabulary test scores and significant improvement in Scholastic Reading Achievement scores



The goal of the EARS program is to equip school personnel with the tools and skills necessary to provide an appropriate and relevant education to students who have hearing loss or other auditory disorders. Additionally, the EARS Program seeks to assist schools in complying with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.



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