

The EARS program provides school-based audiology services and specialized speech-language pathology consult services under contracts with school districts and early childhood programs around the state of Arkansas.

The program offers a “menu” of services – some that are provided by audiologists on the team and then some are provided by SLPs (who have expertise in working with students who are deaf/hard of hearing):

Audiology

1. Technical assistance to teachers and other school personnel regarding amplification (personal and group amplification)
2. Hearing aid analysis and troubleshooting onsite
3. Assistance in establishing/maintaining an amplification monitoring program
4. Attendance at student conferences for referral and programming as needed
5. Assistance with hearing screenings on students who are difficult to test
6. Professional development for district personnel on issues such as classroom acoustics and use/maintenance of amplification
7. Hearing evaluations for students who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or for students who have failed hearing screenings
8. Consultation regarding students with auditory disorders and hearing loss as needed (i.e. APD, CI, listening and spoken language, total communication)

Speech Pathology

9. Speech and language evaluation and goal writing specialized for students who are deaf/hard of hearing
10. Technical assistance to speech language pathologist who is seeing students who are deaf/hard of hearing regarding implementation of therapy goals that are specialized for these students
11. Modeling of therapy for students who are deaf/hard of hearing, especially in the area of auditory skill development

Services provided by the EARS program will NOT take the place of a student’s clinic based audiologist – but will supplement those services by assisting school staff in ensuring that they are appropriately identifying students who may have hearing loss (Child Find) and then once a child is identified, assisting the staff in knowing how to provide appropriate services.

Some school districts contract with the EARS program for "one shot" type of visits (example: school has a specific problem or issue – the EARS program comes in to assist the district related to that specific issue). Other districts choose to have regularly scheduled visits (e.g. once a week, once a month or once a quarter).