

Supporting students with hearing impairment.

Being on placement when a student has a hearing impairment can be frustrating, isolating and unproductive if they do not receive the appropriate support within their surroundings.

It is vital to create a conducive environment that will enable students with hearing impairment to achieve all their learning objectives during their placement effectively.



How can hearing loss impact a student's learning?

- Hearing loss could lead students to fear discrimination, stigma and doubt their work capability, thus holding them back from disclosing their condition.
- Some students may avoid seeking help and reasonable adjustment during their placement, especially if accompanied by anxiety.
- Students may find it difficult to express themselves, thus being frustrated at the workplace.
- Students may find it hard to hear instructions, team conversations.
- Students may feel isolated if they are not able to hear team conversations.
- Students well-being could be impacted, especially when there is a lack of support to accommodate their needs.

**WE
HEAR
YOU**

HOW CAN EDUCATORS SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT?

Carry out a pre-placement visit and ask students about the strategies they use, e.g. lip reading, hearing aids, and visual aids.

- Create awareness of the importance of disclosure to promote safety and communication.
- Make sure you face the student when speaking to them. use a quiet room if possible.
- Ensure students can see what is being done and said during practical sessions.
- Keep background noise to a minimum.
- Use transparent masks if wearing PPE to ensure lip reading can occur.
- Encourage staff to use short, clear statements and vocabulary, especially when giving instructions and feedback.
- Encourage students to purchase or utilise assistive devices such as amplified phones, amplified stethoscopes or those with visual displays.
- If in health, encourage students to adjust monitors so they can use flashing lights instead of listening to bleeps or depending on the alarm. Encourage the students to regularly check on the patients and stay in closer proximity if they have difficulty hearing alarms.
- Prioritise students to be in the front row if doing a teaching session.
- Provide transcripts whenever they use videos in teaching sessions.

