

| Degree of hearing loss | What it means | Without amplification and early intervention | With amplification and early intervention |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Mild | Sounds softer than 25 dB (decibels) to 40 dB are not detected. | <p>Soft sounds such as a faucet dripping, birds chirping, and some speech sounds may not be heard.</p> <p>Sounds that are moderately loud to a normal hearing person, such as speech, will be soft.</p> <p>A child will have trouble hearing faint or distant speech, and may have trouble hearing in a noisy environment.</p> | Most children can recognize and understand soft sounds of speech and the world around them. |
| Moderate | Sounds softer than 40 dB (decibels) to 65 dB are not detected. | <p>Most speech sounds, and louder sounds such as a clock ticking, or a vacuum cleaner may not be heard.</p> <p>Sounds that are loud to a normal hearing person will be soft.</p> <p>Speech can only be understood if it is loud.</p> <p>A child may have limitations in vocabulary, language comprehension and language usage.</p> <p>A child may have errors in his or her own speech.</p> | <p>Most children can recognize and understand soft sounds of speech and the world around them.</p> <p>Most children develop age-appropriate vocabulary, language comprehension and language usage.</p> <p>Most children learn to monitor their own speech production and to speak clearly.</p> |
| Severe | Sounds softer than 65 dB (decibels) to 90 dB are not detected. | <p>Most speech sounds will not be understood, and other loud sounds such as a phone ringing or a dog barking may be missed.</p> <p>Sounds that are very loud to a normal hearing person will be very soft.</p> <p>Speech will only be heard if it is shouted in the ear.</p> <p>Spoken language comprehension and speech will not develop spontaneously.</p> <p>A child with severe hearing loss will have mostly unintelligible speech.</p> | <p>The majority of children can detect and understand most sounds.</p> <p>Most children can learn to understand and use spoken conversation, even though they will not hear speech the way normal hearing people do.</p> <p>Most children will need special accommodations, especially in school, to compensate for the challenges that distance and background noise present.</p> |
| Profound or Severe-Profound | <p>Sounds softer than 90 dB (decibels) are not detected.</p> <p>A child with a profound or severe-profound hearing loss may be called Deaf.</p> | <p>Very loud sounds such as an airplane flying overhead or a lawnmower will not be detected.</p> <p>A child will rely on vision rather than hearing for primary communication.</p> <p>A child will have unintelligible speech.</p> | <p>Many children can detect moderately loud sounds and spoken conversation under ideal listening conditions (no background noise and facing the speaker)</p> <p>Many children still need visual communication to assist them in understanding spoken conversation.</p> <p>Most children will need special accommodations, especially in school, to compensate for the challenges that distance and background noise present.</p> <p>Many children can develop age-appropriate language comprehension and language usage.</p> |