

# AT Solutions for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

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AT services provided through  
Oklahoma ABLE Tech, a contractor for the  
Oklahoma State Department of Education



# Hearing Loss



## **Is not just an ailment of old age**

- For the young, even mild or moderate case of hearing loss could bring difficulty learning, developing speech and building important interpersonal skills necessary to foster self-esteem and succeed in school and life.

# Hearing Loss... not just hearing

## **Studies have linked untreated hearing loss to:**

- Irritability, negativism and anger
- Fatigue, tension, stress and depression
- Avoidance or withdrawal from friends & family
- Social rejection and loneliness
- Reduced alertness
- Impaired memory
- Inability to learn new tasks
- Overall diminished psychological & physical health
- Effects overall school performance

# Communication



As we know students who are deaf or hard of hearing communicate in a variety of ways: verbally, use of sign language (cued speech, ASL, manual), lip reading, and writing.

# AT Solutions: Sound Amplifications

## Comfort Duett

- Manufactured by Comfort Audio

Amplifies speech & conversations, boost sounds from audio equipment. Can be used with neck loop, headphones, or ear buds.



Comfort Duett by Comfort Audio

# AT Solutions: Sound Amplifications

Comfort Contego Manufactured by Comfort Audio Digital, wireless assistive listening device, designed to help you hear in situations where the person you are trying to listen to is a distance away, such a teacher in a classroom. The teacher wears the transmitter, and the student wears the receiver.

- Zoom Microphone
- Omni Directional Microphone
- Sound Kit for electronics



Comfort Contego by Comfort Audio

# Hearing Aids

Things to consider when using sound amplification:

- Headphones vs. earbuds
- Telecoil (Tcoil) hearing aids and neck loops – this allows the hearing aid to become the headset of the listening device
- Most listening devices available are compatible with Tcoil hearing aids



# AT Solutions: Alternative Communication

## Interpretype -

Is an interactive communication device that provides a means of communicating without using speech. It consists of two pre-programmed laptop style computer devices, each with the ability to send and display typed messages to the other device.



Interpretype

# AT Solutions: Alternative Communication

iPad built in features:

- Face Time
- Closed Captions
- Text Messages
- Mono Audio



# AT Solutions: Alternative Communication



- Dragon Dictation – FREE
- Face Time – FREE
- SoundAMP – \$4.99
- Learn American Sign Language app - \$2.00
- My Smarty hands - \$4.99

# Other solutions

- **Environment considerations:**
  - **Acoustics of the room** – can you change it? Or how can you work with it?
  - **Improve access to visual cues** – where are you? And where is the student who has hearing impairment?
- **Basic communication tips:**
  - Do you have their attention before you speak?
  - Are you facing the student so they can also read your lips / facial expressions
  - **Supplement text with pictures where appropriate**

# Need help finding the right device?

- Search ABLE Tech's inventory
- Call for a consultation
- Contact any of ABLE Tech's loan partners that specialize in Hearing AT solutions (TSHA, HLA)

# Contact Oklahoma ABLE Tech

## Assistive Technology and Information Services Program for Children and Youth

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