

Available Technology

Many people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing have some hearing. This is called “residual hearing”. Technology may help a child with hearing loss make the most of their residual hearing. Choosing a technology depends on the needs of the child and family. For those parents who choose to have their child use technology, there are many options to cater to a multitude of lifestyles and needs, including:

Assistive Listening Devices (ALD) are used to provide hearing ability for people in a variety of situations. A common usage is to aid people who are hard of hearing. The assistive listening device is usually used as a system where the audio source is broadcast wirelessly over an FM frequency. The person who is listening may use a small FM Receiver to tune into the signal and listen at their preferred volume.

Bone-Anchored Hearing Aids are small devices that fit in or on the ears, worn by a partially deaf person to make sounds louder. They can be worn by people of any age, including infants. They are surgically implanted.

Cochlear Implants are a surgically implanted electronic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who is profoundly deaf or severely hard of hearing. It gives that child a way to hear when a hearing aid is not enough.

FM Systems are an assistive listening device worn by the speaker to amplify his/her voice and transmit it directly to the listener’s ears via an electronic receiver and special earphones or the listener’s own hearing aids. The device reduces the problem of background noise interference and the problem of distance between speaker and hard-of-hearing listener.

Hearing Aids are small devices that fit in or on the ears, worn by a partially deaf person to make sounds louder. They can be worn by people of any age, including infants.

Other available devices:

- Text messaging
- Telephone amplifiers
- Flashing and vibrating alarms
- Audio loop systems
- Infrared listening devices
- Portable sound amplifiers
- TTY (Text Telephone or teletypewriter)