

Everyday Devices to Facilitate Individuals with Hearing Impairment

There are a many devices available to help hearing impaired individuals perform their daily activities more effectively. As well as hearing aids, there are a number of devices that can be used around the home.

Telephones

Adapted telephones are available that amplify the sound, both of the handset, and hands-free. Portable adapters are also available that you can take with you and attach to a corded phone.

For those with more severe hearing impairment there are a now Relay services available, where a Relay assistant will take the call and then type the message, which is then sent to the hearing impaired individual at the other end of the phone. The hearing impaired individual can then reply verbally or type a reply. There are several variations to this system, sometimes the hearing impaired individual will speak directly to the listener, and the listener will reply by typing text. Special phones are available that also display text. With advances in modern technology, individuals can now also chat on-line in real-time via chat-rooms or use messaging services. Using webcam, you can also see who you are speaking to. For many deaf individuals, text messaging on mobile phones has opened up a whole new system of communication and keeping in touch.

Household devices

There are now devices that will alert hearing impaired people when the door-bell or telephone rings, by displaying a flashing light. Fire alarms are also being used that turn on strobe lights in the bedroom and set-off a 90dB horn. Similar devices are available that act as baby monitors. Vibrating alarm clocks can wake you up by setting off a vibrating pad under your pillow, and/or flashing a bright light.

Loop systems

Loop systems can be used in conference halls, churches, office meeting rooms, classrooms etc. Basically, a loop is a cable that is positioned around a room or building and this generates a magnetic field picked up by a hearing aid. The loop facilitates the listener (via their hearing aid) to hear events more clearly in larger, busier environments. The loop will also help eliminate some of the background noise that can be distracting for a hearing aid user.

See www.icommunicatetherapy.com for more information regarding hearing impairment, hearing aids, and strategies to facilitate communication.



To learn more about hearing impairment, hearing aids and strategies to enhance communication, you can read about and purchase books on our website www.icommunicatetherapy.com. Click this link to see our online Resource Centre [Book Shop](#)

Suggested reading:

Cochlear Implants: Auditory Protheses and Electric Hearing by Fan-Gang Zeng, Arthur N. Popper, and Richard R. Fay

Children with Cochlear Implants in the Educational Setting (School-Age Children Series) by Mary Ellen Nevins and Patricia M. Chute

Better Communication and Cochlear Implants: A User's Guide by Donna S. Wayner; Judy Abrahamson; June Casterton

Cochlear Implant Rehabilitation in Children and Adults by Dianne Allum

Cochlear Implants by Susan B., Ph.D. Waltzman and J. Roland

Cochlear Implants: A Practical Guide by Huw Cooper and Louise Craddock

School Professionals Working With Children With Cochlear Implants by Patricia M. Chute and Mary Ellen Nevins

Hearing AIDS by Harvey Dillon

Hearing Aid Handbook: 2008-2009 by Jeffrey J. DiGiovanni

The Hearing Aid Decision: Answers to Your Many Questions by Randall D. Smith, Jerome G. Alpiner, and Megan Mulvey

Digital Hearing Aids by Arthur Schaub

Assistive Technology for the Hearing-impaired, Deaf and Deafblind by C. Andersson, D. Campbell, A. Farquharson, and S. Furner

Overcoming Hearing Aid Fears: The Road to Better Hearing by John M. Burkey

Hearing Aids - Can Be Your Best Friend: Learning More About Your Hearing Aid & Improve your Hearing and Word Understanding by Lindsay Pratt

Assistive Devices for Persons With Hearing Impairment by Richard S. Tyler and Donald J. Schum