

The Audiologist:

- Assesses auditory function
- Provides comprehensive audiological evaluations and determines type, degree and nature of hearing loss resulting in appropriate recommendations
- Provides reports when testing is completed and interprets results to parents and school personnel
- Counsels on appropriate follow-up including hearing aids or medical intervention
- Educates parents, students and staff about hearing and hearing loss
- Works with the educational team to maximize residual hearing and participates in multidisciplinary team meetings
- Ensures proper fit and function of FM systems and assistive listening devices
- Provides in-service training to staff and professionals as needed
- Maintains and troubleshoots FM equipment and provides loaner equipment when needed
- Stays up to date on the most current hearing technology

**AUDIOLOGICAL SERVICE
INFORMATION**

**Region 3 Special Education
Cooperative
1800 Storey Lane
Cottage Hills, IL. 62018
Phone: 618-465-4460
Fax: 618-462-1035**

***Providing Hearing
Services to All
Surrounding School
Districts***

***Region 3 Special
Education
Audiology
Services***



618-465-4460

***Cindy Ponce, Director
Special Education***

***Kristen Haider Au.D. CCC-A,
Audiologist***

Hearing is fundamental to learning. It is also critical to communication and speech and language performance. Hearing loss can impact a student's vocabulary, sentence structure, academic achievement and psychosocial development.

Hearing problems come in many forms and varying degrees. Each hearing loss will have a different impact on learning.

The school district, along with the special education region, is dedicated to providing children with appropriate hearing testing and follow-up care. These services are available **Free of Charge** to the parent.

The role of the audiologist is to evaluate hearing, to counsel regarding the loss when appropriate, to explain the impact of the hearing problem in the classroom and to assist in maximizing the remaining residual hearing. The Audiologist can assess auditory processing and identify deficit areas.

The goal of the audiologist is to help children with hearing problems achieve the greatest success possible in the educational environment.

WHO CAN REFER?

Referrals must be approved through the Special Education Coordinator.

HOW DO YOU SET UP AN APPOINTMENT?

Just call **618-465-4460**. Some information will be taken over the phone and an appointment time will be given.

WHO NEEDS TESTING?

When a student experiences problems considered to be related to their ability to hear, such as difficulty understanding what others are saying, or if you think the student is speaking differently than other children of the same age, a hearing test should be considered.

Some hearing problems are only temporary. They are called **CONDUCTIVE** hearing losses. These are common with ear infections, allergies and colds.

Some hearing problems are permanent. These are called **SENSORINEURAL** hearing losses. They involve inner ear nerve damage. Some causes are heredity, excessive high temperatures, and exposure to loud noise, birth defects or illnesses.

MIXED hearing loss involves both conductive and sensorineural problems.

Sometimes the auditory center of the brain affects hearing. A **CENTRAL** hearing loss involves "hearing" but not fully understanding.

Educational Audiologists are uniquely qualified to understand the impact of hearing loss on classroom learning. They are equipped with the knowledge and skills to recommend specific strategies and technology to meet each individual student's needs and to ensure that all students have adequate access to auditory information in their learning environment



The Educational Audiologist is one part of a multidisciplinary approach to education. Teachers, parents, special education personnel, speech therapists, school nurses, psychologists and teachers for the hearing impaired all can contribute to this team. The goal is to review records, discuss observations, evaluate performance, examine the educational setting and consult with each other to provide the best learning situation possible.