

# Attitude is Caught, Not Taught

## *Actions Speak Louder Than Words*

The behavior of teachers sends powerful messages to their students. Your student learns about himself from you, and his peers.

### **If you allow him to not wear his hearing aids/ FM/ CI**

- He will believe that his amplification is not necessary or required in the classroom.
- They will never become comfortable and confident in wearing and using their amplification.
- Future use of amplification will be jeopardized.

### **If he is not wearing his hearing aids in the classroom**

- You are showing that it is okay with you if he does not participate fully in your class.
- The child gets the message that it is someone else's responsibility to make sure he understands or get him the information he needs.
- Without hearing all of the language he can't keep up with vocabulary and language learning of the other children.
- Every minutes not hearing his best contributes to growing gaps in learning.

### **If you minimize the impact of hearing loss (*I think his hearing is really okay...*)**

- he is learning that you do not like that part of him - And that you reject him for who he is, a child with a hearing loss.
- he is a bad person for having a hearing loss and to be a good person he needs to pretend that he can hear, even when he is struggling.

### **If you ignore the need to address the hearing loss you are putting your student at risk for being a victim.**

- Children with hearing loss often mishear and misunderstand oral communication.
- This can contribute to bullying or greater feelings of not fitting in.
- Your student may grow to believe that there is some reason why he deserves to be treated badly by others, like being stupid or weird.

**Teachers are in the best position to help their students be resilient to harassment or feelings of not fitting in by linking instances of miscommunication to mishearing, while reinforcing that the hearing loss makes it more challenging for him, but the issue is only that - not that he is a bad person, incapable, strange, etc.**

**Your student wants to please you.** Many students **purposely damage** or lose their hearing aids because they believe their teacher would rather not have them use the devices. Your subtle body language and attitude about using the transmitter is picked up by the student. Students don't want to be a burden to you.

**Without teacher support and acceptance of the child for all of his characteristics and strengths, few children succeed to reach their potential.**

If your student has usable hearing, the level of educational and/or social success he will achieve is directly related to the number of hours he wears his hearing aids each day.

Adapted from <http://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/resources-for-parents-of-children-with-hearing-loss/hearing-aids-and-your-child/hearing-aids-really>