Health Services

Interpretation of Hearing Impairment

Average of the Speech Frequencies in Better Ear	Effect of Hearing Loss on the Understanding of Language and Speech
SLIGHT *16 to 29 dB (ASA)* *or* *27 to 40 dB (ISO)*	• May have difficulty hearing faint or distant speech. • May experience some difficulty with the language arts subjects
MILD *30 to 40 dB (ASA)* *or* *41 to 55 dB (ISO)*	• Understands conversational speech at a distance of 3-5 feet (face to face). • May miss as much as 50% of class discussions if voices are faint or not in line of vision. • May exhibit limited vocabulary and speech anomalies.
MARKED *45 to 59 dB (ASA)* *or* *56 to 70 dB (ISO)*	• Conversation must be loud to be understood. Will have increased difficulty in group discussions. • Is likely to have defective speech. • Is likely to be deficient in language usage and comprehension. • Will have limited vocabulary.
SEVERE *60 to 70 dB (ASA)* *or* *71 to 90 dB (ISO)*	• May hear loud voices about one foot from the ear. • May be able to identify environmental sounds. • May be able to discriminate vowels not all consonants. • Speech and language defective and likely to deteriorate.
EXTREME *80 dB or more (ASA)* *91 dB or more (ISO)*	• May hear some loud sounds but is aware of vibrations more than tonal pattern. • Relies on vision rather than hearing as primary avenue for communication. • Speech and language defective and likely to deteriorate.