

Sensory Impairment Service

Learning at Home for a Child with a Hearing Impairment

Due to school closures many children may now be accessing work at home via a variety of methods, such as worksheet activity packs, research projects or online learning websites. If teachers are setting up webinars or virtual lessons considerations may need to be made for the deaf child as they may experience some difficulties accessing the content.

As every hearing impaired child is different it is recommended that individuals do a 'trial and see' method to find out what is working well for them and what needs to be improved as this will differ per child due to the level of their hearing loss and the quality of media equipment that they are using. They can feed this back to their individual teachers/schools and contact their QTOD for advice.

Children with a hearing impairment will find that most PC/lap top speakers to not be of sufficient quality to access speech well and may need other adaptations.

- Sitting somewhere quiet with no background noise.
- Additional speakers e.g. Bluetooth
- Plug in their radio aid via their audio lead (if they are issued a radio aid)

Lip reading is often used to supplement hearing and this may be difficult if the visuals and audio are not in time. For Online lessons some software, for example Google Hangouts and Microsoft Teams, are available with automatic speech-recognition translation.

Remote speech-to-text support and BSL interpreting are now both well-established and can be delivered through software for online meetings for example, **Zoom**.

Mechanisms for hearing impaired children to keep in touch with their school, any specialist support staff and their Teacher of the Deaf could be used. Options include **WhatsApp**, **Skype video calls** or **webchats**, **FaceTime**, **Zoom conference calls**, **Google Hangout**, **Microsoft Team**, etc. Professionals may need to be creative in finding solutions.

Useful Links:

<https://support.skype.com/en/faq/FA34877/how-do-i-turn-live-captions-subtitles-on-during-a-skype-call>

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/translator/personal/>

<https://amara.org/en/>