

QS5 Training and written information about the personal radio aid system, its settings and its appropriate use must be agreed and shared with the child, parents, teachers and all those involved in supporting the child.

Whilst training should be provided at the initial fitting of the personal radio aid system, it is essential that all key information is shared with all those using it ie children, parents, teachers of the deaf or teaching assistants.

- o Training required at fitting about use/practicalities:
 - guidance when and when not to use the system
 - on/off switch
 - which hearing instrument programme to use for radio aid (eg whether or not it is the default setting)
 - how to pair transmitter and receiver
 - optimum FM receiver settings (volume or gain number)
 - the use of microphone mute control
 - how to select, check and change connections
 - how and when to change/charge the battery
 - optimum transmitter microphone placement and directionality
 - optional features e.g. how and when to use radio aid + M/radio aid only
 - other transmitter options (e.g. network or conference options, connecting to other sound sources).

- o Training should also include:
 - competency levels to set up and check the system and its individual components (including subjective listening and test box measures as appropriate)
 - use with multimedia equipment (see QS 12)
 - how to troubleshoot and replace components
 - when to refer problems to technicians or manufacturer

Good Practice Guide for Radio Aids

Training in a resource provision



Ongoing training and support are essential for the successful use of the system. This is particularly important if systems and/or staff change.

Training will be delivered in different ways and there are many on line resources and video clips (NDCS YouTube) to support this.

Images can help make information clear to those less familiar with the technology eg

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Sample from a report to mainstream teacher:


INSET Content: The following points were covered today, supported by a power point presentation that was left with the School SENCO electronically.

- To understand NAME's degree and type of deafness
- To know what an FM system is and what it consists of
- To understand why it is used / the benefits
- To be able to use and manage it in a classroom
- To understand the key functions (e.g. monitor and synchronise)
- To be aware of the additional features

Recommendations & Action:

- TA has kindly agreed to be responsible for completing a **twice daily** listening check to ensure NAME's hearing aids are working optimally and thereby allowing him full access to the curriculum and optimising his social interaction and inclusion (Sarah will deliver a listening kit to school next week)



- Ensure the FM Transmitter is **SWITCHED OFF** before putting it on charge overnight, otherwise it will not accept the charge.
- Ensure the receivers  are left in school stored securely in the grey carry case centre zipped compartment out of sight and reach of children.
- **Parents to support NAME to increase his use of hearing aids at home.**
- School staff to monitor and encourage NAME's use of hearing aids at home, liaising with his parents on a daily basis as a follow up to (NAME's previous ToD) contacting NAME's parents to discuss the use of the hearing aid at home.

Useful links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Va1wrnsMve0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McOiYgBGf0s>

Date of next visit: Autumn Term 2nd half

Signed: **Teacher of the Deaf**

Time spent: 1.0 hour

Circulation list: File/Parents/SENCO

Sample teacher's information sheet:


Local Authority logo

For staff working with NAME

Please read the front and back of this information sheet because it will help you to understand the support I need.

I have a **bilateral mild to severe steeply sloping sensori neural hearing loss**. It is a permanent loss.

My hearing loss means that there are sounds I cannot hear and sounds which I find difficult to hear even when I wear my hearing aids. It is very important that I can see your face as I also use lip-reading to help me understand what people are saying.

 I wear two **hearing aids** they help me to hear however, they make all sounds louder and when there is background noise it is difficult for me to hear speech.


I also use a radio aid **system**. This helps me to hear your voice and I need you to wear it properly or it doesn't help and I will miss what you are saying.

Transmitter
The person talking wears the transmitter

Switch ON or OFF using the top button



Receiver
I wear receivers on my hearing aids



Receiver

How to use my radio aid system

✓ Do



- ✓ repeat what other students say so I do not miss answers and information
- ✓ students can wear the transmitter or pass it around if they are reading or we are working in small groups
- ✓ please turn it off when you are not using it
- ✓ when we watch a DVD or video please put the transmitter near to the speaker or we can connect it to the TV. I can connect it to a computer or the whiteboard.

✗ Don't



- ✗ please don't wear it too low



- ✗ if you wear it like this it makes lots of noise and I cannot hear what you are saying as the microphone will bang against keys, jewellery . . .

Other things which help me

- ✓ I need to sit at the front of the class so I can hear you and lip-read
- ✓ please don't walk around and talk as I can not see your face to lip-read
- ✓ please write new words, questions, tasks and homework on the board
- ✓ use visual aids, objects and pictures to help me understand
- ✓ because I need to look and listen I can not take notes and listen at the same time
- ✓ please contact the SEN Department or Sarah.....(my teacher of the deaf) for more information.....

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Other resources may be helpful, such as publications from NDCS, YouTube video clips or those from specific manufacturers or training providers, such as the Ewing Foundation. The British Association of Teachers of the Deaf publishes a calendar of continuing professional development opportunities from a number of providers at <http://www.batod.org.uk/index.php?id=/events/calendar.php>