

RESOURCES

KSDE Guide to Education of Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SES/Senses/DHH_Guide-20090605.pdf

Advanced Bionics

www.advancedbionics.com/us

Cochlear America

www.cochlear.com/

MED-EI

www.medel.com/us

"I've always wanted to write a book relating my experiences growing up as a deaf child in Chicago. Contrary to what people might think, it wasn't all about hearing aids and speech classes or frustrations."

~ **Marlee Matlin**

For more information, contact the KSD Outreach team at:

913-324-0600
KSDOutreach@kssdb.org

450 E. Park Street
Olathe, KS 66061

Deaf Education at a glance...



KANSAS SCHOOL
FOR THE DEAF
OUTREACH

WHAT IS A HEARING AID, COCHLEAR IMPLANT & FM SYSTEM?

A hearing aid is a device that amplifies and shapes sound to provide *audibility* to those sounds that **without** amplification are out of the hearing range. Hearing aids *do not restore hearing* or eliminate the hearing loss.

A cochlear implant (CI) is an electronic device that is surgically implanted. CIs work differently than hearing aids. They do not amplify sound; they provide sound information through direct stimulation of surviving auditory nerve fibers in the inner ear. This allows an individual to perceive sounds which were not detectable before the implant. Outcomes for CI users vary. Some users may develop spoken language while others may only have access to environmental sound awareness. Variables to the outcomes of CIs can include:

- Cause and duration of deafness
- Age of implantation
- Consistency of use
- Cognitive ability
- Any additional challenges
- Family support

Hearing aids and CIs work most effectively for receiving sound at a distance of about 3-6 feet. A teacher standing or moving around in the classroom may often be outside that listening distance. In addition, any time there is background noise, the speech signal can be lost; and, and it's well known classrooms are noisy!!

An FM system is a wireless device that can improve the negative effects of noise and distance by improving the signal to noise ratio. A properly worn and functioning FM system will allow a student with hearing loss to hear the teacher as the loudest signal inside their listening range. While an FM can *improve* the signal to noise ratio in the classroom, it will **NOT CHANGE the student's degree of hearing loss or eliminate background noise.** Good classroom management and teaching strategies for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing will still need to be implemented.

KSD Outreach Mission: To provide the highest quality of services, resources, and support to children ages birth-21 who are deaf/hard of hearing by collaborating with their families, their communities, and the professionals that serve them.