

Help other than hearing aids

Information for families

- **Lipreading** can help improve understanding of speech in background noise. Many children lipread from an early age and without formal training. Make sure that when you talk your child can see your face clearly and in good light. Local lipreading classes and communication skills classes can be useful for family members as well as those with hearing loss.
- **Assistive listening devices** can help people with hearing loss with and without hearing aids. Action on Hearing Loss is a charity that can provide information and support on technology available such as telephones (mobile, home and text phones), listening devices, alarms and alerts, and tinnitus products

www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

- **Apps** available on both Android and iPhone mobile phones, can help your child with early skills, communication and education. Voice to text apps support what you hear on your phone with what you read, and are available in different languages. The National Deaf Children's Society has more information on technology, including apps:

www.ndcs.org.uk

www.virgincare.co.uk

- **999**- Register your mobile phone for emergency sms (text messages) BEFORE you need help.

Text the word 'register' to 999. You will then receive a series of messages to enable you to register for this service.

- **Universities** have a disability team. Students with permanent hearing loss may be able to register for support such as written transcriptions during lectures. Disabilities are usually documented as part of the application process for student finance. An application for Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) can be made at the same time (often with evidence from your audiologist regarding your hearing loss and its impact). More information can be found at:

www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas

- **Access to work** is a government programme aimed at supporting disabled people to take up or remain in work. If you have a permanent hearing loss, you may be able to apply for a grant to help support communication needs. Ask your audiologist about ways of getting help with your application.

www.gov.uk/access-to-work

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