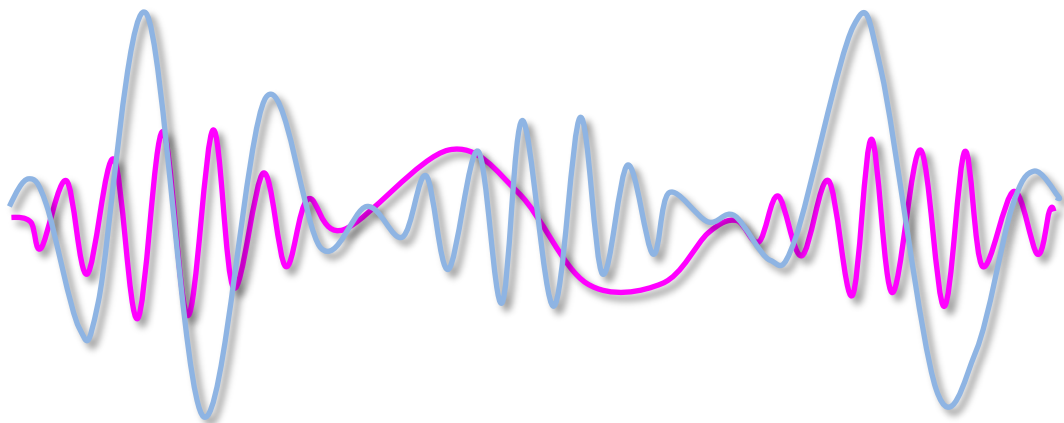


Minimal Hearing Loss

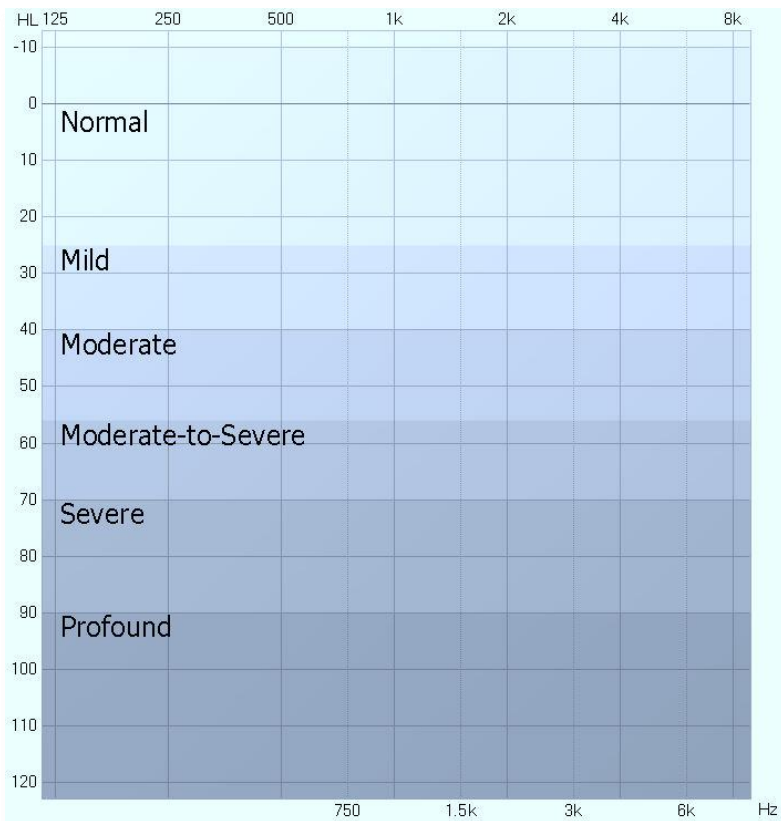


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What is Minimal Hearing Loss?

'Minimal Hearing Loss' is a term used by Audiologists to describe a child's hearing where most of their hearing is normal with only the occasional area of hearing located within the *mild* hearing loss category.

Hearing is usually categorised as either Normal or if a hearing loss is present it is described as a mixture of the following categories:



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What does this mean for my child?

The effect of a 'Minimal Hearing Loss' is a very variable and a personal experience; some children report no difficulty with their hearing and no difficulty in school. Others experience significant difficulty hearing speech clearly, hearing from a distance or when in noise. Research has shown that 'Minimal Hearing Loss' can affect learning for some but not all children. There are currently no ways for us to find out which children with 'Minimal Hearing Loss' are likely to be affected by it.

What treatment can I have?

There is no one-size-fits-all treatment that should be offered, which means we take all children found with minimal hearing loss on a case-by-case basis. We will discuss the difficulties your child is experiencing and present the options which are available to support them. There are a variety of things you, your child and their teacher can do to help where a 'Minimal Hearing Loss' is discovered:

- Keep background noise to a minimum when possible
- Get your child's attention so they can focus on you before you begin speaking
- Make their teacher aware that your child has a minimal hearing loss & may have difficulty in class
- Ask for your child to be seated as near to the teacher as possible

Please ask if you would like more details about communication tactics that you, your child, friends and teachers can apply to help reduce the effects of 'Minimal Hearing Loss' or check out these links.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jylb7TDn2Tk>

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<http://www.ndcs.org.uk/document.rm?id=4755>

<https://www.chimehealth.co.uk/web/data/listening-problems-information-for-parents-6.pdf>

Some children with 'Minimal Hearing Loss' benefit from trialling a hearing aid. In a lot of cases hearing aids will unfortunately provide no benefit as for many children it makes listening more difficult rather than helping them.

What do we do now?

If you & your child would like to discuss the difficulties you are experiencing, please contact us on:

Telephone: 01392 402223

Email: cse.audiology@nhs.net

Address: Chime Social Enterprise, Audiology Department, Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (Wonford), Barrack Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 5DW

www.chimehealth.co.uk

Chime provides NHS Audiology Services for NHS Devon - Mid, East and Exeter areas. From 1st May 2011 the existing audiology department including staff and equipment transferred to Chime - the new Social Enterprise Company. Chime is located at the RD&E Foundation Trust (but is separately managed).

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