



Ready for success

My child with a unilateral hearing loss



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What is it?

Unilateral hearing loss (UHL) is a type of hearing impairment where there is normal hearing in one ear and any degree of hearing loss in the other ear.

Even the smallest amount of hearing loss means that a child is at a disadvantage when it comes to listening and comprehending speech. It is therefore important to assess and address your child's unique listening needs with their hearing care and educational professionals to ensure that they are ready for success.

Ready for success

This guide is created for parents to understand your child's listening needs in the classroom. It can be shared with the child's school and explains the solutions which have been proven to provide better speech understanding in challenging listening situations at school.

Children and unilateral hearing loss

The earlier the identification and intervention of hearing loss, the more positive the outcome for children with UHL will be.

Although UHL does not stop a child from learning to talk, it can cause a number of issues related to speech and language development. This in turn can affect them academically, socially and emotionally.

School statistics

- **3 in 100** children in school may have unilateral hearing loss¹.
- Children with UHL are **10 times** more likely to need to repeat a year² and are **5 times** more likely to need support services³.
- Not only does UHL affect the child but will cost the education system for providing these extra services.

¹ Bess, F.H., Dodd-Murphy, J. & Parker, R.A. (1998). Children with minimal sensorineural hearing loss: Prevalence, educational performance, and functional status. *Ear & Hearing*, 9, 339-354.

² Bess, F.H. & Tharpe, A.M. (1986). Case history data on unilaterally hearing-impaired children. *Ear & Hearing*, 7, 14-19.

³ Oylar, R.F., Oylar, A.L., Matkin, N.D. (1988). Unilateral hearing loss: demographics and educational impact. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 19, 201-210.

What hearing solutions are there for unilateral hearing loss?

Phonak has developed a number of dedicated pediatric solutions to significantly boost the hearing of children with UHL.

Phonak solutions include Phonak Sky™ V hearing aids worn on the impaired ear. The CROS II microphone, when combined with a Sky V, can bring sound from the 'bad' side to the normal hearing ear. Both of these options can be used with wireless remote microphone technology for hearing in noise. If a child is not currently wearing one of the above-mentioned solutions, the Roger™ Focus receiver worn on the normal ear may be perfect to assist them in challenging listening environments. Roger solutions are easy to set up and use, while delivering the best possible speech understanding in noise and at a distance for children and teens with UHL.



Why is school so challenging?

Classrooms and playgrounds are filled with numerous sounds coming from all directions.

These include the hustle and bustle of children and furniture, noise from heating and air conditioning units, general talking and distracting noises from outside the classroom. Much of a child's daily learning relies on hearing the teacher's instruction and peer responses. It is paramount to provide hearing solutions that are proven to perform in the classroom.

What is the recommended solution for hearing better in school?

Remote wireless microphone technology is the recommended solution for children with UHL to hear better in noise and at a distance.⁴ Using a wireless microphone, the voice of a teacher or peers is sent directly to a child wearing a small receiver either alone or attached to their hearing aid. Wireless Roger technology by Phonak has been shown to improve speech understanding in typical classroom noise an average of 53%.⁵

⁴ American Academy of Audiology. (2013) American Academy of Audiology Clinical Practice Guidelines on Pediatric Amplification.

⁵ Roger Focus for school children. Phonak Field Study News (2014)

Which Roger is the right one?

At Phonak, we believe that all children should have the chance to succeed in school and therefore offer a family of Roger solutions for every child with UHL, regardless of the type of hearing aid they may wear daily.

Roger receiver options



Design-integrated Roger receiver

For use with:

- most Phonak BTEs
- Phonak CROS systems – receiver worn on the hearing aid side
- select Advanced Bionics and Cochlear Corp. implants



Roger X universal receiver

For use with:

- most BTEs
- most CI processors
- some bone anchored hearing aids
- most streamers



Roger MyLink receiver

For use with:

- all devices with T-Coil

Roger microphone options



Roger Touchscreen Mic



Roger Pass-around



Roger Multimedia Hub



Roger Pen



Roger Clip-On Mic Hub

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Points to remember and share with those working with your child with unilateral hearing loss.

- Your child may appear to hear well in quiet, causing others not to understand his or her need for intervention.
- Even minimal degrees of hearing loss can affect your child's ability to listen and hear correctly.
- Noise will make it even harder for your child with UHL to understand, even low noise.
- Noise not only happens in a classroom, but also in extracurricular activities, car rides and socializing. He or she may do well with wireless technology at differing times.
- Wireless technology, like Roger, is the proven solution for hearing better in noise.
- Roger technology is simple and easy to use for both child and teacher.
- There are choices in Roger receivers and microphones for all children with UHL. Check with your hearing care professional, to find out which is the best choice.
- Providing a better listening environment can help your child to be ready for success.

Life is on

At Phonak, we believe that hearing well is essential to living life to the fullest. For more than 70 years, we remain true to our mission by developing pioneering hearing solutions that change people's lives to thrive socially and emotionally. Life is on.

www.phonak.com/UHL

