

iSense

Hear better, feel good!



PHONAK

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Thank you for taking time to read through our iSense brochure. We look forward to sharing information about the possibilities the iSense system can hold for your child – in the classroom and beyond.

We assume you are the parent, the teacher, or the therapist of a child having problems in the classroom. Our experiences tell us that such difficulties can be:

- listening-related
- attention-related
- language-related
- learning-related

Research as well as individual and group testimonials tell us that the iSense system can be extremely beneficial to children having issues in one or more of these areas.



What is the iSense system?

The iSense system is a wireless FM system. It brings the desired sound directly to the ear. It consists of a wireless microphone, which picks up the speaker's voice at the source and transmits it via radio waves to an FM receiver. You as parent, teacher or therapist will wear the wireless microphone, while the child wears the iSense receivers.



Hearing, Listening, Learning

When we try to understand what people are telling us, we do more than just hear sounds. We listen. Listening requires that our ears and brain work together – in various ways. When our brain processes speech, many brain areas are active and many skills are combined.

Hearing well is one thing. But being able to focus on the right things is equally important. Not knowing the meaning of the words is an issue. Being overwhelmed by sounds another. Above all, we need to be able to combine different types of information, e.g. what we hear with what we see, or smell, or feel.

Because hearing is the most efficient vehicle for learning, educators capitalize on that and use auditory-oral instruction (talking & listening) as the primary approach in the majority of classes. This emphasis on listening can pose difficulties for children who cannot use this information successfully. Information carried from the ear to the brain must therefore be of high quality or the information available to the listener will be incomplete and confusing.



How would my child benefit from the iSense system?

For children having difficulties listening, focusing or understanding when there is background or distracting noise present, the surrounding noise in the learning or communication environment will have an even greater influence on their ability to understand what is being said. In such situations, the iSense system will be a lifeline.

By picking up the speaker's voice at the source, the iSense system brings the desired sound not only directly, but also with high quality to your child's ear – wirelessly. Your child will hear the speaker's voice as if (s)he were speaking at 3 to 6 inches (10 to 15 centimeters) distance. Research tells us that this is the ideal distance for optimum understanding of speech, especially in background noise. However, most people do not talk with each other while standing this close. You could not always talk in such close proximity in a car, on the street or in the classroom...

Clinical and scientific evidence show a clear benefit for children with learning issues:

- increased attention
- optimal spoken language understanding
- higher academic achievement
- more consistent on-task behavior
- maximum speech understanding in background noise
- improvement in classroom behavior
- increased self-esteem
- active classroom participation

Children seem to tune into learning and classroom activities again. They become more conscious of their strengths, feel better about themselves and in most cases can continue their education in a mainstream school.

For some children the iSense system will address their classroom challenges directly, meaning it will take over the task the child's ear and brain are not able to perform ade-





quately themselves: filtering the speech signal from the the background noise. This is typically the case for children with a Unilateral Hearing Loss, a Minimal Hearing Loss and those diagnosed with an Auditory Processing Disorder.

For other children, the iSense system will perform a task for which – at a first glance – they may not have an issue with. Because of that, the child will not have to invest time and energy in this skill and can use it elsewhere. This way the child is able to grow and evolve in a positive way. Professionals refer to this as resource allocation – freeing up resources in one place and using them where they are much more needed.

What makes the iSense system special?

iSense is one of the first receivers incorporating Dynamic FM – a revolutionary FM technology that Phonak introduced recently. Based on this technology and teamed up with a Dynamic FM transmitter, the iSense product family offers a range of extraordinary features which allow:

- a clear sound quality and optimal transmission
- iSense to adapt its volume automatically to the level of background noise in any environment
- the maximum output level in the iSense receiver to stay within safe limits at all times
- daily monitoring of the devices – transmitter and receiver(s)
- a SoundCheck of the child's learning and communication environment
- and many more ... - your hearingcare professional can tell you all about it

What type of iSense systems exist?

The iSense product family offers two receivers.

iSense Micro – Stylish and Light-weight

iSense Micro is a state-of-the-art ear-level FM receiver for those who want or need:

- a small receiver for light-weight wearing
- a durable design, recommended also for little ears
- a choice of colors to suit personal preferences
- a virtually invisible receiver looking like a Bluetooth headset



iSense Micro and iSense Classic are compatible with all existing Phonak FM transmitters. Use of Phonak wireless systems with wireless systems from other manufacturers is not recommended. It can cause significant deterioration of sound quality and will disable all Dynamic FM features.

iSense Classic – Like Music to Your Ears

iSense Classic is a trendy body-worn FM receiver with a nice variety of wearing options: like an MP3 player, lavalier style or in-the-pocket. It would be the ideal choice if you prefer:

- an affordable solution for two ears
- a directly accessible volume control
- an easy-to-operate receiver with clearly visible controls and light-indicator
- a robust body-worn housing
- a contemporary MP3-player like design



For maximum "Dynamic" benefit, iSense Micro and iSense Classic should team-up with the **inspiro** transmitter. The **inspiro** design, with the large, intuitive color display and easy accessible settings are unique. Soft keys, an alarm clock, wearing options to suit different types of clothing, and other valuable features reflect Phonak's passion for user-friendliness.

inspiro transmitter



Do you still have a question?

Here are some of the questions we have received from parents, teachers and therapists over the years. Maybe some of them reflect your feelings about using FM technology for your child. If something remains unclear, please don't hesitate to contact a hearingcare professional near you to find the answers that you need.

Should my child wear iSense only in school?

Your child will probably wear iSense mostly in school, but (s)he can also use the iSense system during therapy sessions, leisure activities and at home.

Will my child have to wear iSense for the rest of his/her life?

We don't know. As your child grows older things will get easier and skills will improve. Your child will also learn how to compensate for the issues that may remain.

Will wearing an iSense system cause my child to have "lazy ears"?

No! Current clinical and scientific evidence shows that wearing an FM system actually improves the ear's and brain's listening skills. This effect remains even when the wireless system is not worn anymore.

How many hours a day should my child wear iSense?

Your hearing care professional should primarily answer this question. In most cases your child should not wear iSense all the time. We recommend that children at least wear the iSense, during academic classes at school. And then there may also be occasions at home where you and your child may want to use it too.



What will his/her friends think of my child when (s)he is wearing iSense?

Well, wearing iSense will definitely make your child different to others. However, children already wearing iSense or similar systems – and there are already thousands of children out there that do – told or wrote us that their friends think they look really cool with it and in most cases they would like to try it on themselves...

Can't my child just sit up front to hear the teacher better?

Although some people still believe this is a good solution, especially when you have a Unilateral Hearing Loss, this theory is wrong. It will help in some way when your child has a seat more closely to the teacher, but this will not solve the problem. Even in the front row the sound quality of the speech can be insufficient. On top of that, teachers move around and what may have seemed to be the best place in the classroom, suddenly no longer is and you may find yourself further away from your teacher than before.

iSense: Hear better, feel good!



Life is on

We are sensitive to the needs of everyone who depends on our knowledge, ideas and care. And by creatively challenging the limits of technology, we develop innovations that help people hear, understand and experience more of life's rich soundscapes.

**Interact freely. Communicate with confidence.
Live without limit. Life is on.**

