

Children Hear Better with FM

A starter guide for parents and teachers



PHONAK

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Children hear better with FM

This guide explains how and when FM can help

Many children who wear hearing aids still have difficulty hearing and understanding a parent or teacher's words when there is lots of background noise and over short distances. This communication challenge also applies to many normal-hearing children who suffer from concentration-related disorders, such as Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Auditory Processing Disorder (APD).

Does your child or student get frustrated because they cannot always understand speech? Do they struggle to engage with groups of family and friends, or find it difficult to follow the conversation in noisy classrooms?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, Phonak's FM products can help your child or student to hear and understand better.

Turn the page to explore the situations in which FM can help ...

What is an FM system?

An FM system is a wireless system designed to help someone better identify and understand speech in noisy situations and over distances of up to 15 meters (50 feet). Some FM systems work together with hearing aids, while others are designed for those with normal hearing.

It works like this: the person speaking wears or holds a transmitter microphone (or places this in the middle of a group). This transmitter picks up important speech sounds and uses harmless radio waves to send these to one or more FM receivers, which a child wears behind the ear (e.g. connected to their hearing aids).

The result? The child hears the speaker's words directly in their ears, without any distracting background noise, allowing them to enjoy and participate fully in every conversation.



Speaker using
inspiro transmitter

Child wearing FM
receiver(s)



FM for life

Improving communication with your child

Group activities and meal times pose a real challenge for children with hearing loss or attention-related problems due to their complex mix of chatter, background noise, tabletop bangs and clinking cutlery and glasses. An FM system cuts out this distracting noise, helping a child identify and respond to what is being said.





A personal FM system can improve your child's ability to communicate normally, cutting through distracting noise during group activities and overcoming the effect of short distances on speech understanding.

Overcome challenging situations

Better understanding when your child cannot see your face

Children with a more severe hearing loss can often only understand speech if they can also lip read at the same time. A FM systems "bridges the gap", bringing speech sounds directly into the child's ears and helping out when lip reading is not possible.



Excel at sports

Hear better, perform better

Children with hearing issues find it easier to respond to their coach's instructions when they hear these commands direct, wherever they are on the field of play.





Get more from multimedia

FM improves a child's engagement

FM transmitters plug straight into any multimedia device's audio-out jack, letting your child hear sounds such as TV programs, MP3's, video games and educational software via their FM receivers, without needing to crank up the volume.



Make journeys enjoyable again

With FM children hear and respond through the noise

Children often struggle to hear and understand conversation during car journeys due to the high background noise level. With FM the difference is remarkable; often turning a previously unhappy child into a serene and responsive traveler.



A Phonak FM system to suit every child ...

Phonak offers a comprehensive range of industry-leading FM transmitters and receivers. Simply choose the device that best suits your child's specific needs.



SmartLink+

This is Phonak's top-of-the-range Dynamic FM transmitter features 3 microphone modes for varying listening situations, Bluetooth connectivity, a hearing instrument remote control and more.



ZoomLink+

A versatile Dynamic FM transmitter featuring 3 microphone modes, an audio input and SoftLanding technology.



EasyLink+

Our most easy-to-use transmitter, EasyLink+ features just one button and a single microphone mode.



inspiro

Phonak's popular Dynamic FM teacher transmitter is designed for use in mainstream, special and deaf schools. Available with a lapel or mini-boom microphone, inspiro offers numerous industry-leading features including 'Adaptive FM Advantage' (AFMA) – an algorithm that separates out and emphasizes the teacher's voice signal over the surrounding noise.



DynaMic

Designed for use alongside inspiro, DynaMic uses Phonak's MultiTalker Network technology to ensure other students and teachers can also be heard and understood by FM-wearing children.



ML9i/ML10i/ML11i/ML12i/ML13i

Phonak's 'design-integrated' FM receivers are built to slot seamlessly onto specific Phonak hearing aids such as the Naida Behind-the-Ear (BTE) model.

MLxi

MLxi is Phonak's universal Dynamic FM receiver, which is compatible with virtually all hearing aid brands and cochlear implant.

iSense

iSense Micro and iSense Classic are designed for children who have difficulty understanding or concentrating upon speech in noise, but who do not wear hearing aids, such as those with APD, ADHD or autism.



Dynamic FM

Dynamic FM is Phonak's groundbreaking FM platform. A completely new FM technology, it offers children the clearest possible link to a speaker's words, as well as new usable features and easy configuration.

FM at school

Helping students hear, engage and perform more effectively

When noise levels increase, students with hearing loss or attention issues often struggle to differentiate important speech sounds – such as the teacher's voice – from the surrounding noise. In these situations FM technology is a real plus, as it helps students better hear and respond to the teacher's directions, improving their performance as a result.





FM technology can transmit crystal-clear speech sounds over distances of up to 15 meters, meaning teachers no longer need to raise their voices to be heard and understood.



Students with a more severe hearing loss often lip-read in order to understand what the teacher is saying. With a personal FM system however such speech clues are no longer required; instead the student can hear and understand whichever direction the teacher is facing.



Everyone has their say

With Phonak FM every student can be heard, by everyone



MultiTalker Network (MTN)

The MultiTalker Network is a key component of Phonak's Dynamic FM platform and enables student to better hear and understand the speech of up to 9 additional speakers (teachers and/or students). Thanks to the MTN, everyone in the class can be heard, by everyone.

Phonak's DynaMic is a durable passaround microphone that is used as part of Phonak's MultiTalker Network (see left). This allows FM-wearing children to accurately hear what additional speakers have to say, ensuring they don't miss any part of the discussion or presentation.

For normal hearing children

FM helps all kinds of students to perform



By making it easier to understand and focus upon the teacher's voice in class, FM receivers for normal-hearing users like iSense Micro (right) can help children who suffer from attention-related disorders to really concentrate and perform better in class.



Children for whom a school's main language is not their native tongue can benefit from the listening clarity iSense FM technology brings.



iSense Micro

iSense Micro is a beautiful, micro-style, state-of-the-art FM receiver based on Dynamic FM, the new global FM standard from Phonak. Its miniaturized and high-tech design makes the iSense Micro the ideal product for children who like a discreet, trendy solution.



iSense Classic

iSense Classic is an MP3-player style body-worn FM receiver that can be kept in the pocket or worn around the neck. This affordable, robust solution is designed for two-ear use and includes an easily accessible volume control.

Dynamic SoundField

A new era in classroom amplification



Dynamic SoundField is a new classroom amplification system that dramatically improves how well every student can hear and understand the teacher in class. Numerous scientific studies have proven that amplifying the teacher's voice, especially in regular schools, boosts student comprehension and performance. Soundfield technology also ensures a teacher does not need to raise their voice to be heard; improving their vocal health and enhancing class management.

Phonak's Dynamic SoundField features a raft of new and exclusive features. In addition to industry-leading sound clarity, its volume and frequency settings are set automatically, the system is simple to use (just plug in and teach!), and the inspiro transmitter offers 3 transmission modes: Dynamic SoundField mode for classes of normal hearing children; Dynamic FM mode for hearing impaired students; and an exclusive third mode for integrated classes.





Fully automated settings

No configuration required

Phonak's ingenious WallPilot automatically sets the receivers of FM-wearing students to the correct channel when they enter the class.



Phonak FM

Loved by children, parents and teachers alike



"My son Noah has been using Phonak FM for a year now. It's beneficial in the car, when I'm in another room, during sing-songs and family dinners. He reacts much better when you're speaking to him and are wearing it. If you're singing a song and he is repeating after you, it is much clearer with the FM. He also hears instructions better. If he is in the next room and I say, "Noah bring mummy the book!", he will bring it, instead of me having to shout or use more gestures. FM means he doesn't miss out on anything and that has really made a difference to his confidence" – Claire

Warburton, Bolton, England



"My daughter Madeleine (2 yrs, 8 months) has been using FM technology for eight months. When she is horse riding or we are outside it is really useful; I say her name and she responds instantly, whereas

without FM I feel less confident. Also when we are shopping, the difference between using and not using FM is just massive. With FM it's like she's a normal hearing child, but without it - with all the hustle and bustle of a shopping center - there would be little or no response" –

Sharon Leahy, Hale, England



"Charlotte (2 yrs, 10 months) has been using FM every day for 10 months and it has been a big help. It's a very noisy world and for a child with a hearing loss, it's quite difficult to pick up speech in this much noise. What the FM does is it focuses for them. In a nursery environment for example, where you have a lot of children's chatter and echoing rooms, it means Charlotte has been able to hear other children's voices better and her communication has improved from there. Plus she has more friends because she can talk back to them and communicate better. The FM has really made a significant difference" – Alyson Grayson, Bolton, England



"I use a Phonak SmartLink transmitter and this FM system has helped me succeed in the daily classroom environment at school. Without it I would have to strain to listen to the teacher and by the end of the day I would be exhausted from the effort required to get the right information. FM has had a huge impact on my life, especially at school" – Preston Chao, Toronto, Canada



"When I started working with Mary-Jane (shown) staff described her as unengaged and unintelligible in her interactions. I knew hearing aids would make a world of difference at home, but how would she cope at school in a busy activity-based kindergarten? Our choice of Phonak's inspiro FM system was the right one. We immediately saw results. Mary-Jayne consistently turned and answered to her name, she started to follow the oral reading of storybooks in class, and she became more engaged in her music class" – Marilyn Barrington, Hearing Resource Teacher, Saskatoon, Canada



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.**

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