Ideas to encourage functional listening in the classroom

Registration

When taking the register, ask all the class to put their hand up/stand up as well as answering so that the hearing impaired child can see who answered and match the sound of the other children’s names to the person.

If the child can name all the other children in the class, vary the order of the register, eg starting at the end or the middle to make the listening pattern less predictable.

When the children are very familiar with the register routine, give each child a number in order, so the first child on the register is 1, 2nd is 2 etc. Then, starting with 1, each child calls out their number when they hear the number of the child before them. See how quickly the class can say all the numbers. If anyone is away there will be a gap.

Group discussion

If the hearing impaired child has a radio aid, pass around the microphone to the other children during group discussion time.

If the group is not too big, consider sitting in a circle rather than lines, to help with lip-reading and localisation of sound.

Home corner

A door knocker or hand bell etc could be put outside the door of the home corner to encourage children to listen and then let others in.

Class routines

Telling the child, if s/he hears the bell, s/he can line up at the door first for play time.

Use a different instrument each week to indicate “tidy up time” etc. Gradually reduce visual clues, eventually with the instrument out of sight. Sometimes allow the children to use the instrument, to let the child see the effect it has on the others.