Children's Audiology

NHS
North Cumbria Integrated Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Classroom Acoustics

The problem with noise
- Children require a quieter environment and a louder signal than adults do in order to learn.
- The younger the child the quieter it has to be

Acoustic requirements
To have good listening and speaking conditions a room must have:
- low background noise
- shorter reverberation time (reduction in echo)
- good sound insulation between the room and to the outside.

Acoustics research
- Research has shown that improving acoustics helps improve the results of all children.
- A wide range of attainments and performance factors have been examined to establish the effects of environmental noise.

Reduce the noise at school or nursery
- using fabric on displays and display tables
- seating a deaf child away from noise sources (e.g. not next to heating / ventilation systems, etc.)
- sticking soft pads on the bottom of chair and table legs
- turning off equipment when not in use (for example, IWB projector)
- providing quiet areas.

Reduce the noise at home
- Turning the television off when it is not actually being watched
- Trying not to have background music unless it is actually being listened to
- Be aware that washing machine and dishwasher noise can make it much harder to hear

Reduce noise from outside the building by:
- closing windows
- having curtains or blinds
- trying to place a class with a deaf child as far as possible from any noise source (e.g. not next to a playing field, road, building works, etc.)

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