



A QUICK START GUIDE - ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES CREATED BY THE WYOMING EARLY INTERVENTION INITIATIVE (WEII) FOR FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING (D/HH)*

What Are Assistive Listening Devices (ALD)

- Remote Microphones (RM) and personal Frequency Modulation (FM) systems are examples of assistive listening devices. They are small devices available to help children who are D/HH.
- These devices allow the voice of the person wearing the microphone to be sent directly to a child's hearing device(s) via Bluetooth.
- These devices help overcome the problem of distance between the person speaking (teacher/parent/day care provider/family members) and the child.



Why Use an ALD

- For every 3 feet away you are from your child, the volume of your voice decreases by 6 decibels. This means, the further away you are from your child, the more your voice becomes a whisper.
- Improved speech clarity.
- Improved quantity and quality of communication.
- RMs help diminish the effect of noise, distance, and reverberation (i.e. room echo) on a child's ability to hear and understand speech.



How to Use ALD

- Daycare Providers/Teachers etc. please note that the parent has been trained, by the audiologist, on how to use and maintain the ALD. Ask the parent to teach you how to use the ALD following the steps below.
 - Turn on the ALD.
 - Ensure the ALD is paired to the child's hearing device(s).
 - Perform a listening check BEFORE and AFTER the ALD is activated.
 - Position the microphone (use a clip/lanyard) no more than 8 inches below the mouth of the person speaking.
 - Talk away! Be sure to MUTE the ALD when you don't want the child to hear what is going on (i.e. you going to the bathroom).
 - At the end of the day, turn off the ALD and plug it in to the charger for a minimum 2-3 hours.
 - Make sure clothing, jewelry etc. does not cover or touch the microphone while you are speaking. It will cause scraping or muffled sounds.
 - As you are speaking, when you turn your head also turn your upper body. This supports a consistent mouth to mic distance and ensures the child has consistent access to the voice of the person speaking.

Where to Use ALD

- Noisy, reverberating environments, such as classrooms, restaurants, the car etc.
- Whenever the person (teacher/parent/day care provider/family members) wearing the microphone will be more than 3 feet away from the child (i.e. in another room, outside).
- Anywhere and everywhere there are problems with noise and distance (day care, outside, restaurants, grocery store, stroller rides etc.).



*Members of the WEII include representatives from the following: Wyoming Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program; Wyoming Families for Hands & Voices, Guide By Your Side (GBYS); Wyoming Department of Education, Outreach Services for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH); Wyoming Department of Health, Early Intervention and Education Program (EIEP); University of Wyoming, Communication Disorders Division; Child Development Services of Wyoming; and The Marion Downs Center.

If you are interested in additional information, support, or training provided at **no cost** regarding this quick start guide, please contact the Wyoming EHDI Program at (307) 721-6212, info@wyomingehdi.org for an appropriate referral.