



[This page prints out on 2 sheets]

## Mainstreaming

Read this page to learn if a regular school is right for your child.

### What mainstreaming is

**Mainstreaming** is when a child with hearing loss goes to a regular school instead of a school for the deaf. Mainstreaming is also called **inclusion** or **integration**. A child can be mainstreamed in different ways:

- **Total mainstreaming**  
Your child would go to a regular school and have all classes with hearing children. She might need special services, like interpreters, notetakers or speech therapy.
- **Partial mainstreaming**  
Your child would have some classes with hearing children, and some in a special room with a teacher of the deaf.  
How much of each class depends on the school. For example:
  - a. Your child may go to a hearing school, but have all or most of his classes in a resource room. A **resource room** is a room set aside for students with hearing loss or other disabilities. Those classes are taught by a trained teacher of the deaf. Students have only a few classes with hearing students, like gym or home economics.
  - b. Your child may go to a hearing school and have most of her classes with hearing children. A few times a week, she may work with a visiting teacher of the deaf.
- **Team teaching**  
A teacher of the deaf and a general education teacher work together in a class of both hearing and deaf students.  
Team teaching is not as common as other kinds of inclusion.  
Ask your school district if they have this option.



### How going to a school with hearing children can affect your child

- Your child may be the only deaf or hard-of-hearing child in the school.
- She may be able to go to school with family and neighborhood friends.
- Your child might not be able to catch everything the teachers or students say.
- She may find the class work more challenging.
- She may study harder to make up for what she misses in class.

### **What special help your child will need**

Work with your school district to get support services for your child.

If you're having trouble with the school, talk to an advocate and other parents to learn how to get your child special services.

Special services may include:

- A trained teacher of the deaf
- Interpreters
- Notetakers
- Tutors
- Other specialists, like a speech and language therapist
- [Assisted listening devices](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/help/tech/ald/) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/help/tech/ald/>), like FM systems or captioned movies.
- [Other assistive devices](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/help/tech/others.jsp) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/help/tech/others.jsp>)

Read our section on what [help your child can get in school](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/help/) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/help/>).

### **Questions to ask yourself before choosing a school**

- Does your child understand and play with other children in the neighborhood?
- Does she already have hearing friends?
- Is school a place where your child feels happy and is understood?
- Is your child learning every day?

Read our [checklist to see if your child is ready for the mainstream](http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/choices/mainstream/checklist.jsp) (<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/choices/mainstream/checklist.jsp>).

### **Learn more about mainstreaming**

- Check out this page of [mainstream programs](http://deafness.about.com/cs/mainstreamcenter/) (<http://deafness.about.com/cs/mainstreamcenter/>) on About.com.
- Find out what special help your child may need on this page about [assistive technologies and services](http://www.oraldeafed.org/library/aids.html) (<http://www.oraldeafed.org/library/aids.html>) on the Oral Deaf Education website.

*This page was last edited on January 15, 2004*

*You can find this page online at:*

<http://www.raisingdeafkids.org/learning/choices/mainstream/>