



# Attitude is Caught, Not Taught

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

**The behavior of teachers sends powerful messages to their students.  
Your students learn about themselves from you and their peers.**

*Teachers are in the best position to help their students be resilient to harassment or feelings of not fitting in, by linking instances of miscommunication to mishearing, while reinforcing that the hearing loss/auditory processing deficits make it more challenging for them –but the issue is only that, NOT that they are a bad person, incapable, strange, etc.*

## **Your student wants to please you**

- Many students purposely damage or lose their hearing devices because they believe their teacher would rather not have them use the devices. Your subtle body language and attitude about using the transmitter is picked up by the student. Students do not want to be a burden to you.

## **Without teacher support and 100% acceptance of the student for all their characteristics and strengths, few students succeed to reach their potential**

- If your student has usable hearing, the level of educational and/or social success they will achieve is directly related to the number of hours that they wear their hearing devices every day

## **If you allow them to not wear their hearing aids/FM/CI:**

- They will believe that their amplification is not necessary or required for the classroom
- They will never become comfortable and confident in wearing and using their amplification
- Future use of amplification will be jeopardized

## **If they are not wearing their hearing aids/devices in the classroom:**

- You are showing them that it is okay with you if they do not participate fully in the classroom
- They receive the message that it is someone else's responsibility to make sure they understand or get them the information they need
- Without full audibility access to language, they CANNOT keep up with the vocabulary and language learning of the other students
- Every minute they are not hearing their best, contributes to growing gaps in learning

## **If you minimize the impact of hearing loss or auditory processing (eg: *I think his hearing really is okay...*)**

- They are learning that you do not like that part of them -and that you reject them for who they are, a person with hearing loss or auditory deficits
- They are internalizing that they are a bad person for having auditory difficulties, and to be a good person they need to pretend they can hear, even when they are struggling

## **If you ignore the need to address the hearing loss/auditory processing difficulties, you put your student at risk for being a victim**

- Children with hearing loss/auditory difficulties often mishear and misunderstand oral communication
  - This can contribute to bullying or greater feelings of not fitting in
- Your student may grow to believe that there is some reason why they deserve to be treated badly by others, like they are stupid or weird

