# Cochlear Classroom Care Guide

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Practical advice for parents

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# **Practical Advice for Parents**

Help your child with a Cochlear<sup>™</sup> implant or Baha<sup>®</sup> Sound Processor prepare for success in the classroom.

Your child is heading to school! This is an exciting time for you to prepare your child for a fun and successful school year. These seven tips will help prepare your child to start school with confidence and get them school ready.

#### Investigate school options

 Begin exploring potential schools at least a year before your child will start school. Many parents will consider both private and public school options. We recommend being prepared to discuss the role of the school and ways they can support your child.

#### Orientation

- Once you have decided on a suitable school for your child, you can help prepare your child for their first day practicing school-related vocabulary such as "playground", "assembly" and "homework".
- You may also wish to develop a "School Readiness" book that includes photographs of various areas of the school and talk about the functions and vocabulary associated with each place.

#### FM System and Mini Microphone

Consider providing teachers with a FM assistive listening device or the Cochlear Wireless Mini Mic 2+ to use in the classroom. These devices transmit speech and sound directly to your child's sound processor and can make a big difference to your child's confidence and comprehension in mainstream classrooms. For more information, refer to our Wireless Technology in the Classroom guide.

#### **Classroom Teacher**

- At the start of the year, regular meetings can be helpful to monitor your child's progress and discuss any concerns with their teacher.
- Ensure that your child's teacher is receiving the support and training that they need.

Your child's teacher may not have experience with how best to help your child in the classroom. If they have any questions, in addition to these resources, you can reach out to your local Cochlear customer service team for further assistance.

#### Academic preparation

- Be aware of the basic language and general skill-level expected of children starting mainstream school. We recommend that you request a copy of the curriculum several months before school begins to help prepare.
- At the start of the school year, inform teachers of your child's current skill set. Refer to our *Tools for Schools Starting School: Skills Checklist* and use this as a guide to shape the discussions with your child's teachers.

#### Raise awareness at school

- Get involved in volunteering or the school's Parents Committee to help raise awareness of how everyone can support your child's successful integration into the school.
- Provide teachers with the *"I Can Hear" colouring and activity book* to help other children in the classroom become more familiar with what a cochlear implant is.

#### Activities outside of school

 It is important to consider your child's social life outside of school too. Hobbies, sports and time with friends are key language building opportunities that help foster self-confidence and incidental listening skills.

### **Tips for your Child**

Below are some tips that may be helpful in preparing your child for the classroom. These tips are a great way to encourage positive relationships with classmates and teachers. They can also help to set appropriate expectations for your child on their first day of school.

#### Raise your hand

• Remember to raise your hand when you want to talk. This way, the teacher knows you are listening and want to learn. You will have to wait your turn as there will be many other students in your class and the teacher may not call on you every time.

#### Ask lots of questions

- Don't be shy to ask your teacher questions if you do not understand what they or your classmates have said. You can raise your hand and say:
  - a. Could you please say that again?
  - **b.** I didn't understand, can you please talk a little slower?

#### Kead instructions carefully

• (if your child is of reading age) - If you do not understand what our teacher has asked you to do, raise your hand and say:

a. I don't know what to do

**b.** Am I doing this right?

#### Check that you can hear

 Check your sound processor, FM or Mini Mic 2+ before class starts. If you can't hear well, tell your teacher so they can help you.

#### Make new friends

 Making friends is fun! You can make friends by being nice, helpful and friendly.
A "buddy" can help you if you don't hear something or if you have a question.

#### 🗧 Be patient

- If someone doesn't understand what you say, then try again. To help your classmates understand, you can:
  - a. Repeat what you said.
  - **b.** Use your best speech and slow down.
  - c. Say it in a different way.

#### Explain how it works

- If someone asks you about your cochlear implant, explain how it helps you. You can say:
  - a. My implant helps me to hear
  - **b.** It has microphones that pick up sound and I can hear best when you talk facing me.



For more information, please contact your local customer service team.

## **Cochlear Family**

### Hear now. And always

As the global leader in implantable hearing solutions, Cochlear is dedicated to helping people with moderate to profound hearing loss experience a life full of hearing. We have provided more than 600,000 implantable devices, helping people of all ages to hear and connect with life's opportunities.

We aim to give people the best lifelong hearing experience and access to innovative future technologies. We have the industry's best clinical, research and support networks.

That's why more people choose Cochlear than any other hearing implant company.

#### Visit Cochlear.com for more detailed information or call your local customer service team.

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Please seek advice from your health professional about treatments for hearing loss. Outcomes may vary, and your health professional will advise you about the factors which could affect your outcome. Always read instructions for use. Not all products are available in all countries. Please contact your local Cochlear representative for product information. Consult your health professional to determine if you are a candidate for Cochlear technology.

In Australia. Cochlear<sup>™</sup> Nucleus<sup>®</sup> implant systems are intended for the treatment of moderately severe to profound hearing loss.

Baha® implant systems are intended for the treatment of moderate to profound hearing loss.

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