Hear Me Out!



What Students With Cochlear Implants Need Us to Know

Lora Baker, B.Ed., M.Sc., R.SLP
Principal and Speech Language Pathologist
Auditory Outreach Provincial Resource Program

Auditory Outreach
Provincial Resource Program

qathet SCHOOL DISTRICT



About Me and Auditory Outreach

- Principal of a Ministry of Education funded program in Canada
- Speech Language Pathologist and Teacher
- Run a program specifically supporting students with cochlear implants
- We support ~ 200 students with CIs and their school teams with assistive listening equipment loans and consultative support
- Host a group of students with CIs aged 10-18 who meet virtually- Cochlear Connections Club
- Work collaboratively with CI team at the Children's Hospital, community audiologists and Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Auditory Outreach
Provincial Resource Program

qathet SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students With CIs Have Unique Skills and Learning Needs

1. Auditory Verbal Training is Important!

2. Language Skills:
   Strengths: Written Language and Visual
   Challenges: Vocabulary, Social Language

3. Bigger Cognitive Load

4. Knowledge About Their Own CI(s) and Equipment

5. Range of Communication Modalities: Lack of spoken language resources, auditory access, access to ASL

6. Identity: Deaf/ deaf, hard of hearing, pride, discomfort

Auditory Outreach
Provincial Resource Program

7 -Poll **Do you identify with any of the following?**



30s time limit Multi-select

deaf	3
Deaf	3
Hearing	1
Hard of Hearing	6
None of the Above	1
Other	1
No answer	0

Participants answered 9 of 9

Connecting Students, Families, Schools and Audiologists

- Schools need to prioritize auditory access!
- Students need access to remote microphone systems and speech to text equipment
- Students with CIs have unique learning, social, communication and identity needs
- Full team case conferences are key
- Include the students in meetings and decisions
- Audiologists need connection with school team
- Webinars, Videos, Resources, Easysheets, Newsletter
- More CI specific professional development for school teams
- Timely technical support
- Opportunities to connect with other CI users

Auditory Outreach
Provincial Resource Program

Cochlear Connections Club

- Group of students aged 10-18 who have 1 or 2 CIs
- Meet twice/ month virtually
- Huge geographic region approximately 900,000 km², many students in rural or remote locations
- Idea came from meeting students in person and 2 themes emerged: many had never met someone their age with a CI, many felt like they didn't fit in with "Deaf culture events"
- Talk about social language, wins and challenges, identity
- Connecting CI Users: Panel of adults with CIs – students generate questions
- Student Survey: Loved meeting other students with CIs who "get it", enjoy hearing about adult experiences, easier to advocate when they have peer and program support



Auditory Outreach Provincial Resource Program

qathet SCHOOL DISTRICT

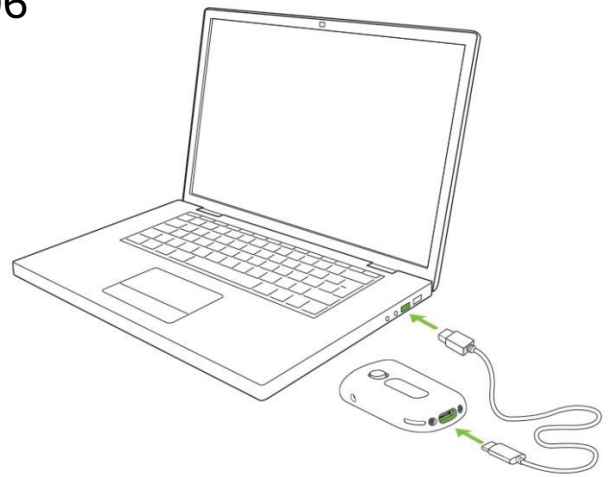
Speech to Text

- Program provides equipment and resources
- Combination of live captions and transcription
- Highlights what they have misheard
- Teacher wears one microphone that connects directly to processors and speech to text receiver
- Accuracy is greatly improved when connected to remote microphone
- Reduced cognitive load, greater independence
- Works on a variety of devices

Research Supported:

Millett, P. (2021–2022). *Accuracy of speech-to-text captioning for students who are deaf or hard of hearing*. Journal of Educational, Pediatric & (Re)Habilitative Audiology, 25.

Irdamurni, Nurhastuti, Amini, R., & Taufan, J. (2020). *Implementation of speech-to-text application for deaf students on inclusive education course*. WMA 2019. DOI: 10.4108/eai.11-12-2019.2290896



Auditory Outreach
Provincial Resource Program

Thank you!

www.auditoryoutreach.ca

Lora Baker
1-604-414-2637
Lora.baker@sd47.bc.ca

Auditory Outreach
Provincial Resource Program