



Practical advice for parents

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Help your child with a Cochlear™ implant or Baha® 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.

1 Investigate school options

- Begin exploring potential schools at least a year before your child will start school. We recommend being prepared to discuss the role of the school and ways they can support your child.

2 Orientation

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

3 FM System and Mini Microphone

- Discuss with your local professionals and teachers the use of FM assistive listening device or the Cochlear Wireless Mini Mic 2+ 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, *please reach out to your local professionals or Cochlear customer service team.*

4 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 professionals and Cochlear customer service team for further assistance.

5 Academic preparation

- Be aware of the basic language and general skill-level expected of children starting mainstream school.
- At the start of the school year, inform teachers of your child’s current skill set. Refer to our *Tools for Schools - Checklist* and use this as a guide to shape the discussions with your child’s teachers.

6 Raise awareness at school

- You may wish to consider getting 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.

7 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.

1 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.

2 Ask questions

- Don't be shy to ask your teacher questions if you do not understand what they or your classmates have said or you want find out more. 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?

3 Read instructions carefully

- (if your child is of reading age) - If you do not understand what your 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?

4 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.

5 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.

6 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.

7 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 local professionals or customer service team.

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