



Do you have difficulty hearing in certain situations?

Would you like help with communicating at home and at work?

Do you suffer from tinnitus (noises in your head or ears)?

Do you have problems hearing the television, telephone or doorbell?

Hearing Therapists work with people who either suddenly become deafened or whose hearing deteriorates gradually.

The principal role of the Hearing Therapist is to make the most of a person's ability to use the hearing that they do have and to teach them to compensate for any hearing loss by using other skills. They are based in hospitals, though not every hospital will have one. Their role varies from area to area and all therapists work differently. Most have their own area of interest. Hearing Therapists design individual programmes which might include any of the following:

- Lip reading tuition on an individual or group basis.
- Counselling and advice on managing tinnitus.
- Advice and provision of environmental equipment e.g. TV aids, alarms.
- Counselling prior to the removal of a vestibular Schwannoma.
- Work with relatives to help them understand the implications of hearing loss and to improve their communication skills.
- Relaxation classes.
- Help for people to adjust to using a hearing aid, ensuring that they obtain maximum benefit. Some carry out a large part of the hearing aid assessment and provide a follow up service after it has been fitted.
- Support with problems (as a result of hearing loss) in the work environment.
- Liaison with other agencies e.g. speech therapy, social services, voluntary organisations.

They also:

- Provide talks/education to both hearing impaired people as well as voluntary and statutory organisations.
- Specialise in working with people who have a hearing impairment and other difficulties, such as sight loss or learning difficulties.
- Work as part of a Cochlear Implant Team. There are now a handful of Hearing Therapists who have worked with people following Brain Stem Implant (ABI).
- Work with people who have difficulties with their balance.

Hearing Therapists often approach rehabilitation in different ways and it might be that some centres do not offer the full range of services outlined above. Please contact your local therapist to see how they can help.

How to find your nearest Hearing Therapist:

- Ask your ENT Consultant
- Ask the Audiology Department of your local hospital
- A phone call to your local Hearing Therapist will then establish what service is available in your area and how best to achieve a referral.

**Judith Hunt
Hearing Therapist
Epsom
Surrey**

Produced
with financial
support from



The Neurofibromatosis Association has taken reasonable care to ensure that the information contained in its publications is accurate. The Neurofibromatosis Association cannot accept liability for any errors or omissions or for information becoming out of date. The information given is not a substitute for getting medical advice from your own GP or other healthcare professional.

For more information and a full list of publications please contact:

The Neurofibromatosis Association Tel: 020 8439 1234 website: www.nfauk.org
Quayside House, 38 High Street Fax: 020 8439 1200 e-mail: info@nfauk.org
Kingston on Thames, Surrey KT1 1HL Mon — Fri 9am — 5 pm
National Telephone Helpline : 0845 602 4173

The Neurofibromatosis Association is a Registered Charity No. 1078790
and a Company Limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales, Reg. No. 03798407