
PEEL AUDIOLOGY & HEARING AID SERVICES

145 Queen St. E., Suite 2, Brampton Ont., L6W 3P8, TEL 905-874-4911

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Beyond Hearing Aids

Sometimes hearing aids are not enough. To supplement an individual's hearing aids devices classified as assistive listening devices (ALD's) can be used. Two of these are discussed below.



1. FM System

Commonly used by hearing impaired children in the classroom is the personal FM system. In a classroom setting the hard of hearing child can have difficulty hearing the teacher's voice through their hearing aids alone when the teacher turns away, moves around the classroom or there is other interfering noise. With an FM system the child has receivers connected to their hearing aids and the teacher wears a microphone. As the teacher is talking, the microphone picks up the voice and transmits it directly to the child's hearing aids. This provides the child with an auditory signal from the

speaker which doesn't get softer as the teacher moves around and stays louder than the background noise.

FM systems can also be very helpful to the hard of hearing adult. The microphone can be given to a speaker in a meeting or seminar, linked with AV equipment, placed in the center of a table for round table discussions or even connected to the television. Some clients also find it useful in the car. There are many situations where it can be used and will significantly improve the signal to noise ratio for the hard of hearing individual. FM systems today are extremely sophisticated and now some even have blue tooth technology which can be used to connect directly to the user's cell phone. To use an FM system the individual must wear behind the ear hearing aids and be willing to carry the microphone or wear it around their neck. This deters some people from considering this option even though it can be very helpful.



2. Infrared Systems for Home TV or Public Theatre

Understanding of TV can be improved with use of an Infrared listening system. This system consists of an infrared transmitter and a receiver headset. The individual wears the headset and controls their own volume while others can listen at a comfortable level. Many of the live theatres in the GTA are equipped with infrared systems for the hard of hearing. Again, the individual uses a headset instead of his/her hearing aids. The sound from the stage is transmitted by infrared light directly to the headset. Now the individual no longer needs to be concerned with sitting near the front of the theatre and those "noisy" people sitting nearby will not interfere with the enjoyment of the show!

Appointments can be made by calling Kim or Kathy at 905-874-4911 or giving your patient a referral to arrange their own appointment. Referrals can also be faxed to 905-874-0834. If you need more referral pads please call us.

Thank you for your continued support!!

Lynne Burdett and Janet Michaud, *Audiologists*