We're one step closer to enhancing hearing health!

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**Communicating with someone with hearing loss**

- Do not yell (louder ≠ clearer)
- Face the resident (Do not have your back turned)
- Give visual cues if possible (masks may be a barrier)
- Speak slowly and clearly. Do not over enunciate your words (this distorts speech)
- Do not talk from another room
- Minimize extraneous noise when talking (e.g., crinkling of paper, closing curtains, etc.)

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**MORE RESOURCES**

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-aids

Hearing Loss Association of America
www.hearingloss.org/hearing-help/

Better Hearing Institute
betterhearing.org/

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
www.asha.org/public/hearing/
About 70–90% of older adults in nursing homes have some degree of hearing loss.

HEARING LOSS AND IMPORTANCE OF HEARING AID USE

- There are different severities of hearing loss that can have various causes
- Untreated hearing loss can lead to social isolation
- Barriers for hearing in noisy environments:
  - Distance between the resident and the talker
  - Background noise
  - Reverberation/echo
- Hearing aids can optimize and improve speech understanding by:
  - Amplifying specific speech sounds the resident is missing
  - Decreasing background noise to avoid listening fatigue

HEARING AIDS ARE PRESCRIBED TO FIT THE USER'S HEARING LOSS.

1. Sound is picked up by the microphone
2. The internal processor of the hearing aid amplifies that sound
3. The amplified sound comes through the tube/receiver, then into the user's ear

On/Off:
- Opening the battery door turns off the hearing aid
- If it's rechargeable, press and hold the volume down button for 2–3 sec

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