

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS FOR HEARING INSTRUMENT USE

Hearing Instruments:

- ❖ Must be worn consistently to achieve the full benefit of hearing aid use. This means that the hearing aid must be worn all day long, every day.
- ❖ Should allow you to hear many sounds that you may not have been able to hear without amplification. Examples of such sounds include soft speech, children's voices and other quiet environmental sounds.
- ❖ Should allow you to understand speech more clearly, and with less effort, in a variety of listening situations.
- ❖ Should prevent normally loud sounds from becoming uncomfortably loud. Sounds that are uncomfortably loud for normal hearing individuals may also be uncomfortable when using hearing instruments.
- ❖ Should fit in your ear comfortably.
- ❖ **May** allow you to understand speech more clearly in some noisy situations. This depends largely on the type of hearing aid circuit chosen and also on your particular hearing loss.
- ❖ Will require time to get used to. It usually takes from one to three months to attain your maximum performance potential as you gradually become accustomed to amplification.
- ❖ May make your own voice sound different to you when you speak.
- ❖ **Will not** restore your hearing capabilities to "normal" or to pre-existing levels.
- ❖ **Will not** completely "filter out" background noise. Some hearing instruments can reduce amplification of certain types of background noise. This often produces improved sound quality and a more comfortable listening experience in many types of noisy environments.