Hearing aid and cochlear implant technologies do wonders, but there are still some accommodations needed to help campers with hearing loss achieve their full potential at camp.

**Understand/Get to Know Your Camper**

*Recognize His/Her Unique Needs*

Each camper will have personal preferences when it comes to maximizing hearing and ensuring optimal communication. We suggest a meeting with the camper to find some common ground where you can help be an advocate for him/her.

**Facilitate Communication at Camp**

- **Keep Background Noise to a Minimum**
  
  When you are addressing the group, background noise makes it difficult to hear, so try to choose a quiet spot.

- **Enunciate Your Words**
  
  Speak naturally without exaggerated lip movements, but be clear and easy to understand.

- **Address the Campers by Name**
  
  This will help your camper with a hearing loss know you are speaking to him/her and follow the flow of the conversation.

- **When You Address the Group**
  
  Make sure your camper with hearing loss is close enough to you to understand the instructions. Be sure that he/she understood the directions by asking follow-up questions to the group (i.e. “What are we doing first?”). It is also important that you do not single out campers with a hearing loss.

- **Demonstrate the Activity**
  
  Help campers understand directions with a demonstration.

- **Face Campers**
  
  Make sure campers can see your face clearly before speaking. Avoid holding anything in front of your mouth or turning your back away from the group when talking.

- **Repeat the Question**
  
  Many times when a camper asks a question, other campers cannot hear what was asked. Repeating the question will help all campers understand the answer.

**Other Things You Can Do**

- **Inform Others**
  
  Inform the people that matter: the umpire/referee, instructors, and possibly some teammates. Whoever you think could help make accommodations for the camper.

- **Report Concerns**
  
  If you notice your camper with hearing loss asking “what” or needing more repetition than usual, check the campers equipment/batteries as they may not be working properly.

- **Help Build Self-Advocacy**
  
  Encourage your camper to explain their hearing loss to their friends. Allow them to answer questions if other campers ask what is on their ears.

- **Help Assist During Water Activities**
  
  Create a plan with your camper for water activities. The plan should include establishing a designated storage area near water activities and ensuring that your camper uses waterproof gear when applicable.

  Give directions before camper takes out his/her listening device(s) and then use signals to instruct when swimming.

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**Please do not:**

- Get hearing aids wet
- Chew gum as you talk to campers
- Single out campers with hearing loss