

Directorate of Children's Services
**Hearing Impairment
Service**

Enjoy Swimming!

BE SAFE !

If you require further information or advice
please contact
The Hearing Impairment Service
Council House
Mary Stevens Park
Stourbridge
DY8 2AA
Tel: 01384 818009 Fax: 01384 814241
Text: 07827 873498
Web site: www.dudley.gov.uk/sis

**Safety,
Swimming and
the Hearing
Impaired Child**



- Without their hearing aids Deaf Children will not accurately hear what you say
- Without their cochlear implants deaf children will not hear anything!

NO VOICES, NO SHOUTS, NO WHISTLE

- The hard surfaces of the pool make it difficult for us all to hear. Sounds echo, the clarity of sounds gets lost

It is particularly difficult for Deaf Children

Before the first swim, carry out a Risk Assessment, ask your Teacher of the Deaf for advice.

.....THINK ABOUT

Can the children wear their hearing aids/ cochlear implants while they are still DRY on the pool side– to hear any key instructions?

Who has responsibility for ensuring the equipment is removed and stored safely BEFORE the child enters the water?

Who will help put swim moulds in if needed?

Who has responsibility for carefully watching the deaf child in the water?

Are there two ‘swimming buddies’ who can alert the deaf child to changes in activity, to look at the instructor?

Can the deaf child always see your lips?

Lip—reading helps but it is guess work
Be aware—the deaf child might guess wrong!

Has the deaf child seen the activity demonstrated several times?

Allow other children to demonstrate the activity.

What ‘Stop and look’ signal will be used?

Turning the lights on and off may be better than a whistle

DON'T PUT COCHLEAR IMPLANT EQUIPMENT ONTO WET HAIR

DON'T PUT HEARING AIDS INTO WET EARS

DISCUSS WITH PARENTS AND THE TEACHER OF THE DEAF.