

Incidental Learning

DHH Deaf & Hard of Hearing Tips for Teachers

Follow the links for more in-depth information.

Ambient Noise

- You just heard the classroom door close. As a hearing person, you glean information from this. You learn that someone just entered or exited the room. Maybe this means it's okay to use the restroom... or someone is going home sick... or a service provider has taken a student out of class... What information would you be missing if you never heard this noise?
- You hear students whispering in the corner of the room. Perhaps they are telling a joke... maybe sharing answers on the quiz... maybe they are poking fun at someone... What information is being missed if you don't have access to this conversation?

Incidental Learning: An Example

Overhears two sentences from her parents' conversation.

Learns the following:

- There are different types of milk.
- People go shopping for milk.
- People make shopping lists.

Incidental Learning

Incidental learning happens any time a student gleans information beyond the learning outcome. Because DHH students don't overhear conversations, they miss out on a lot of incidental learning.

Thus, **it is vital that no question be considered inappropriate.** You may be the only exposure the student has had to this information.



Just a friendly reminder to make sure all videos are accessible by turning on closed captioning or subtitles.