

## SoundRecover: Information for Teachers

### What is SoundRecover?

It is common for children with hearing loss to have less hearing in the high pitches (i.e. the high frequencies). These high pitched sounds carry important information essential for understanding speech. Often it is not possible to make these sounds loud enough, even with modern hearing instrument technology. The goal of SoundRecover is to help bring the high pitched sounds into the child's usable hearing range.

### The benefits of SoundRecover:

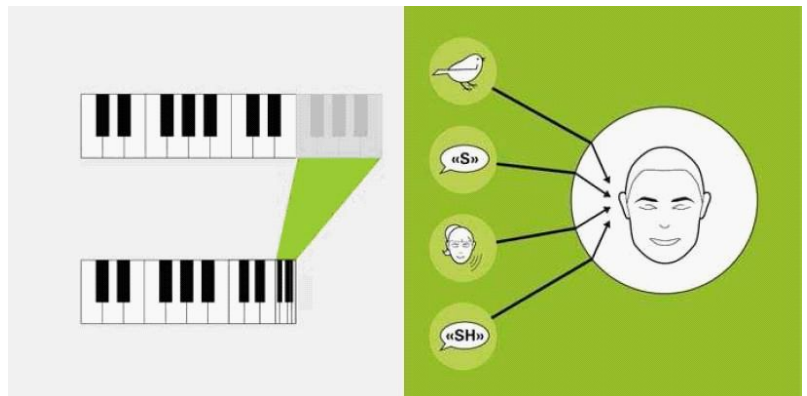
Children may experience the following when listening through hearing instruments with SoundRecover applied:

- Improved hearing of certain sounds and better overall speech understanding (most noticeable for high-pitched talkers such as women and children, softly spoken people, or sounds such as the letters "s" or "f")
- Improved speech production thanks to the fact that more speech sounds are audible
- Improved hearing of certain environmental sounds (e.g. bird songs, microwave beeps, doorbells)

### To help explain SoundRecover, we will use an illustration of the piano:

During a hearing test, audiologists test a range of frequencies, starting at a low pitch (e.g. 250 Hz bass sound) and ending at a high pitch (e.g. 8000 Hz treble sound). You can relate these pitches to a piano keyboard. In addition, high pitched sounds are quieter than low pitched sounds. A child's audiogram will tell you which pitches he/she is unable to hear.

SoundRecover takes the softer, high pitched sounds that the child is unable to hear, and compresses them into a lower pitched region, where he/she can hear better (see illustration). SoundRecover allows greater audibility of high pitched speech and everyday sounds.



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Listening to a hearing instrument with SoundRecover:

You will notice during listening checks that hearing instruments with SoundRecover may sound different compared to conventional hearing instruments (e.g. voices may sound lower in pitch). This is a normal result of the special SoundRecover processing and is nothing to worry about. Remember that for children with hearing loss, this processing means more hearing in areas where little was available before.

Do further adjustments ever need to be made to the child's hearing instrument(s)?

As with all hearing instruments, adjustments may occasionally be needed. If a child reports the following, fine tuning changes to SoundRecover by the child's audiologist may be needed:

- Certain speech sounds cannot be distinguished from one another (e.g. "sh" and "s" when produced by others may have a "lisp" quality)
- Compared to previous amplification, the child comments that sound quality has decreased for certain speech, music, and/or other sounds
- Certain speech or environmental sounds are bothersome or unnatural sounding for the child

It is normal for children to need a period of adjustment to get used to the new processing scheme. SoundRecover can provide children with access to important speech and environmental sounds otherwise unavailable. This will be a new and exciting experience for the child!