

# FM Systems

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## What is an FM System?

An FM (frequency modulated) system is used to help a person with hearing loss listen in noisy places, such as a classroom.

There are two main parts of this system.

1. A microphone and transmitter unit worn by the person speaking (the teacher)
2. The receiver used by the listener (the student) to pick up the speaker's voice
  - There are several options for the receiver type.
    - » “Boots” attached to the hearing aid(s) or cochlear implant(s)
    - » “Desktop” speaker on the child's desk
    - » “Sound field” speakers located in different places in the classroom
    - » Devices worn on the ear without a hearing aid/cochlear implant
  - Your child's audiologist can recommend the most appropriate receiver type(s) for your child.

## How does an FM system work?

The microphone/transmitter sends the teacher's voice directly to the student's receiver using FM radio waves.

## What does an FM system look like?

There are many different makes and models of FM systems. Here are a few examples:

*(Photos from Phonak.com)*



**Transmitters (worn by the teacher)**

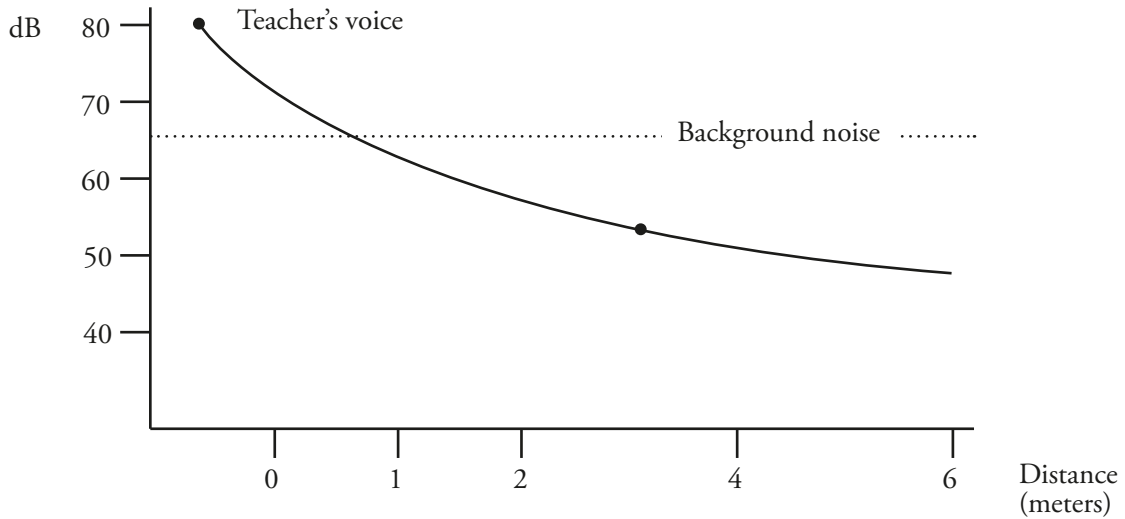
**Receivers (worn by the child)**



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### How does an FM System help a child with hearing loss?

Hearing aids and cochlear implants help children hear in most situations. However, it may be hard for the child to understand what is being said in the classroom because of background noise. The FM system will keep the teacher's voice at an audible level above the background noise no matter where the child is sitting in the classroom.



Without an FM system, the teacher's voice gets softer with increasing distance. Background noise is equally loud over the classroom.

### How do I ask for an FM system at school?

Ask the school office who is in charge of FM systems or Special Education at your child's school. You may be put into contact with the school's Educational Audiologist, Special Education Coordinator, or Principal. Be sure to document your communications with the school. Any requests should be made in writing.

While an FM system may be recommended for your child, the decision to provide an FM system is district and/or school specific. Some children may not qualify for an FM system under Ohio laws based on hearing loss alone, however, the school may consider special circumstances when making the decision whether to provide this technology.

