

FM systems

FM systems improve the listening conditions in the classroom for a child with a cochlear implant by bringing the clear voice of the speaker directly to the child.

FM systems have two parts:

1. A microphone that is worn by the teacher on a cord or clip near the mouth
2. A frequency-tuned receiver
 - There are two types of receivers:
 - **Personal** – Personal receivers are worn by the child and are tuned to work with his or her cochlear implant.
 - **Sound field system** – Sound field systems use a receiver positioned near the child or throughout the classroom.

If the child with a cochlear implant in your class needs an FM system, then you will work with the child's parent(s) and audiologist to install it. We provide general tips below.

Tips for using an FM system:

- For a personal FM system, the child's receiver and the teacher's transmitter/headpiece must be tuned to the same channel.
- During group discussions, pass your microphone to the child who is speaking.
- Be sure to turn off or disengage the system before leaving the classroom for recess and other activities or during group work with other children.
 - Many teachers report that remembering to turn off and on the FM system is a challenge. Consider asking all the students in the class to help you remember.
- If you suspect that the FM system has a problem, try some simple troubleshooting.
 - See if the batteries need to be replaced, check the tuning, and examine the cables for frays or kinks. If you are unable to find or fix the problem, turn off or disconnect the system. Reach out to the parent or the audiologist to fix the problem.