

Age-Related Hearing Impairment

Curriculum Overview

Designed for:

- High school students
- Post-secondary courses in health care
- Certified Nursing Assistant training courses
- In-service training for nursing home facilities
- Public health organizations
- Community education

Length:

The activities in this curriculum will last approximately 2 ½ to 5 hours. With supplemental materials, this curriculum can be adapted to a longer block of time.

Goal:

To help participants learn about hearing loss and impairment due to aging. This will also help participants gain a sense of empathy and sensitivity to the challenges these changes have on daily life.

Synopsis:

This curriculum helps participants learn about how we hear and the impact of aging on hearing. Common conditions such as tinnitus, high-frequency hearing loss, and general hearing loss will be experienced through the simulator. The simulation experience also includes a dementia component where participant hear low-grade, unintelligible sounds that add a layer of confusion to daily tasks as well. The curriculum gives participants to take a pre-test, to check their knowledge and understanding of hearing before the simulation experience. The lessons use a slide presentation and integrates the hearing impairment simulation experience into the lesson. A fully immersive lesson is included as well.

Curriculum Components:

- Teacher's guide – Complete lesson, including detailed steps of activities, time and materials needed, student handouts and instructor information to teach the lesson
- Student materials
- Assessment tools
- PowerPoint presentation slides

Learning Objectives:

Lesson 1: Hearing Loss and Impairment

- Experience age-related hearing loss
- Increase sensitivity to the feelings engendered when hearing is impaired and independence may be compromised

Lesson 2: The Geriatric Experience

- Experience physical changes due to aging
- Understand what it means to be empathetic
- Increase empathy and understanding of what it is like to age and the impact it has on daily life

Lesson 3: Post-Summative Assessment

- Assess their understanding of information presented through the course.