

Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) include a wide variety of devices designed to improve hearing in specific listening situations. Some are designed to be used with hearing aids, and others are designed to be used alone. All of them are designed to emphasize the one signal you are interested in hearing. That sound might be a far away voice or a sound you desire to hear that gets lost in the noise.

tain frequencies to help with word clarity. Some amplifiers can be used with your current telephone. The "captioned telephone" is a phone that provides a written word (like closed captioning on TV) for word caption of what the speaker says on a screen on the telephone. There are also devices available to make your telephone ring louder. Amplified answering machines for your phone can make the message louder and

is much louder than normal, allows you to vary the tone of the alarm and can be hooked up to a lamp to flash a light when it goes off. It also can have a vibrating attachment that you can put under your pillow or mattress. This type of alarm clock would be ideal those with a severe hearing loss or even for very deep sleepers!

There are other alerting devices available to let you know that someone is at the door or a baby is crying

sounds are not amplified. Churches and other large auditorium events should also have similar devices. The Yorktown Theater in Lombard also has a captioning device that can be used at your seat.

People who use behind-the-ear hearing aids can often add a cord (called direct audio input) to plug into a device like a CD player, iPod, microphones, or computer speakers to make the sound go through their

Assistive Listening Devices can help the hearing impaired

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A popular ALD is a television amplifier. Many people hear well with this type of device because it brings the TV signal directly into their ears bypassing any room interference like others talking, furnace noise, etc. One popular TV amplifier consists of a base that plugs into your television and a wireless headset that picks up the signal. The television volume can be turned to a comfortable level for others in the room to hear well or the volume can be muted.

The telephone can be a difficult experience for some with hearing impairment. There are amplified telephones that not only make the speech louder, but they can also amplify cer-

there is even one available that can play back the message at a slower rate. Most hearing aids are made with built-in phone amplifiers.

Have you ever not heard your alarm clock go off? That is a common occurrence with people with hearing loss. An alarm clock is available that

in the other room.

Most movie theaters and play houses have ALDs you can borrow for free. Look for a sign at the ticket window of an ear. These devices are some type of headset that picks up the voices directly from the speaker system; so that, other disturbing audience

hearing aids. Some of these devices are now wireless.

There are many more types of alerting devices and personal or group systems. See your audiologist if any of these may be useful for you or a family member.

