

Academic and Socio-Emotional Impacts for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Center for Educational
Consultation and Training



What Are Some of the Challenges that Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Face in Schools?

- Often they arrive at school with delayed language because they have not had exposure to incidental learning (side conversations, tv, radio, overhearing family discussions or interactions). ***This can be true for students who use spoken language as well as students who use sign language.***
- Often they have not had fluid and comprehensive communication during their early years of development.
- Staff who work with students often lack the expertise needed to provide optimal learning environments.



Delays in Language Can Manifest As...

- Parts of words or sentences may be heard, but not understood.
- Limited vocabulary knowledge.
- Context not understood.
- Confusion with multiple-meaning words and synonyms.
- Disconnect with sound-symbol relationships.
- Limited opportunities for developing peer relationships.



Reduced Academic Achievement

- Language delays cause gaps in background knowledge and related vocabulary.
- Difficulty in following directions.
- Difficulty with complex, abstract language impacts reading comprehension.
- Difficulty with understanding language functions and context.
- Reduced ability to utilize all three reading cueing systems.
- Reduced engagement and access to learning.



Hearing Loss

- Fatigue – from straining to listen & process
- Lack of engagement – from fatigue & frustration

Language Delay

- Lower vocabulary
- Less sophisticated grammatical structures

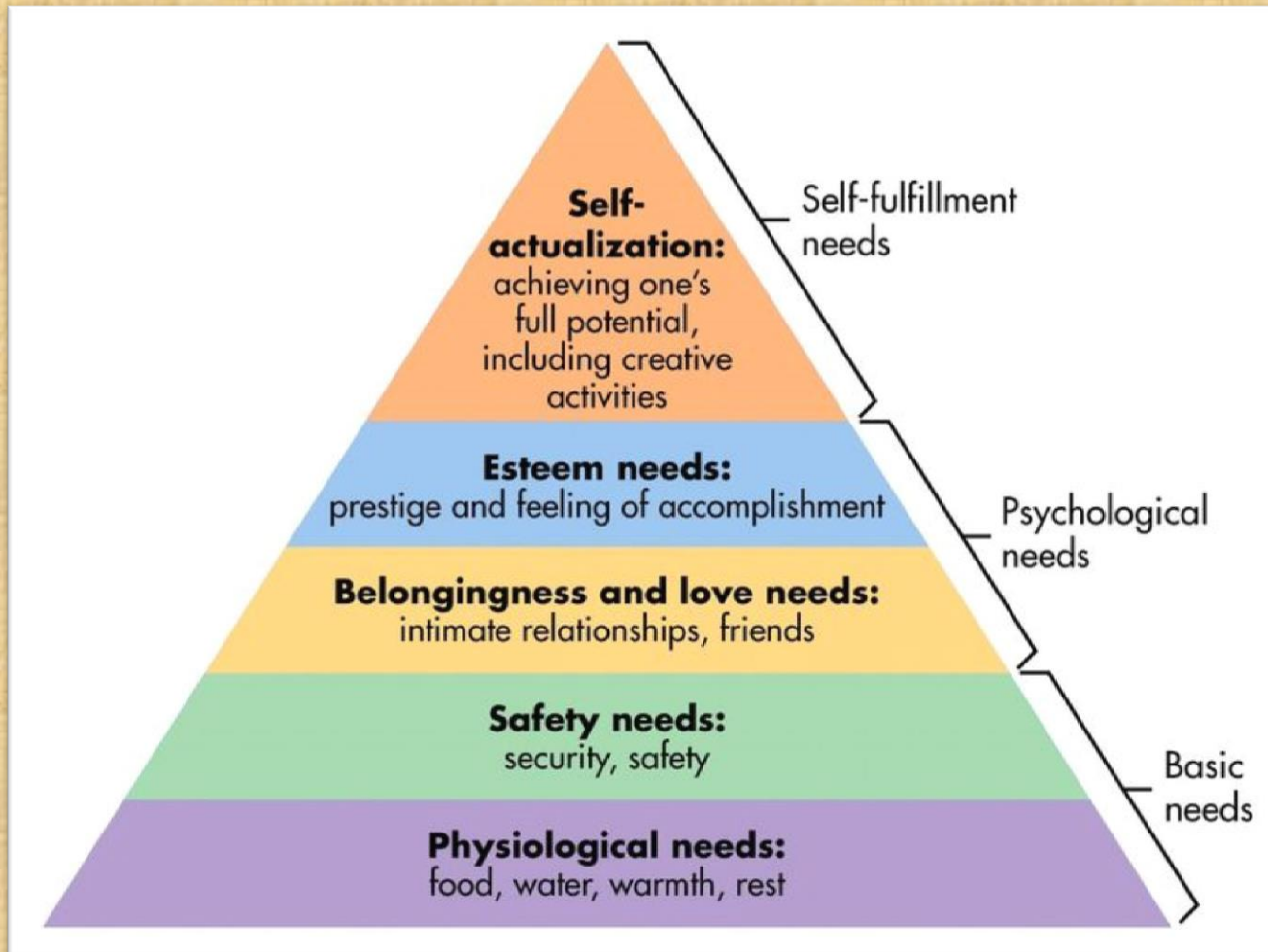
Gaps in conceptual knowledge

- Lack of access to incidental learning

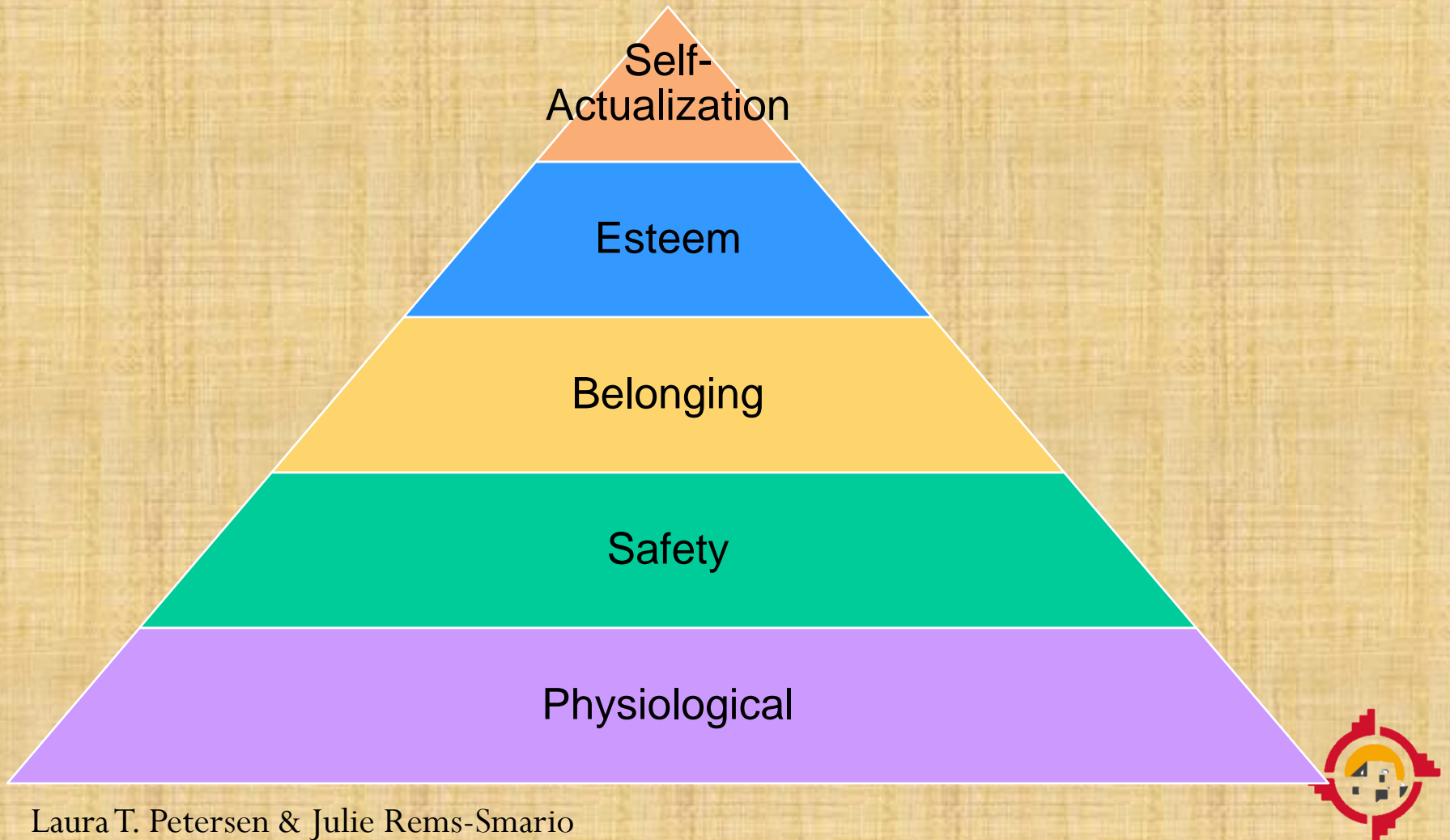
Social and Emotional Impacts



We know Maslow's Hierarchy of needs...



How are these needs impacted by Language delay?



How are these needs impacted by Language delay?

- Language allows us to communicate basic needs and to be comforted.

Physiological



How are these needs impacted by Language delay?

- Language allows us to understand and predict the world around us, decreasing anxiety.

Language deprivation often limits the development of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children beyond these levels.



How are these needs impacted by Language delay?

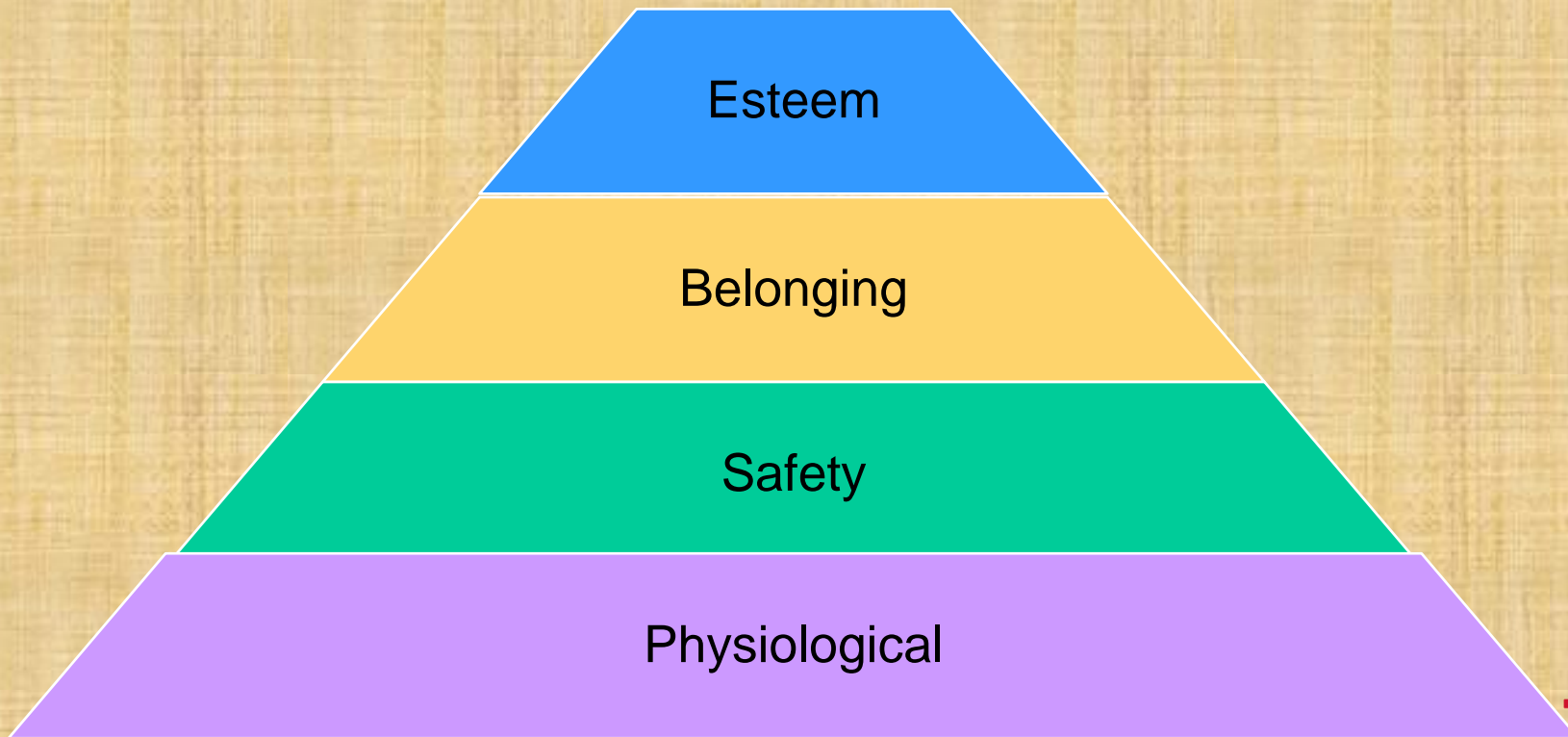
- Language instills a sense of belonging by allowing us to discuss ideas & develop trust among peers & family.

Does the language level of the student and/or the people in their community allow for the discussions that develop these relationships?



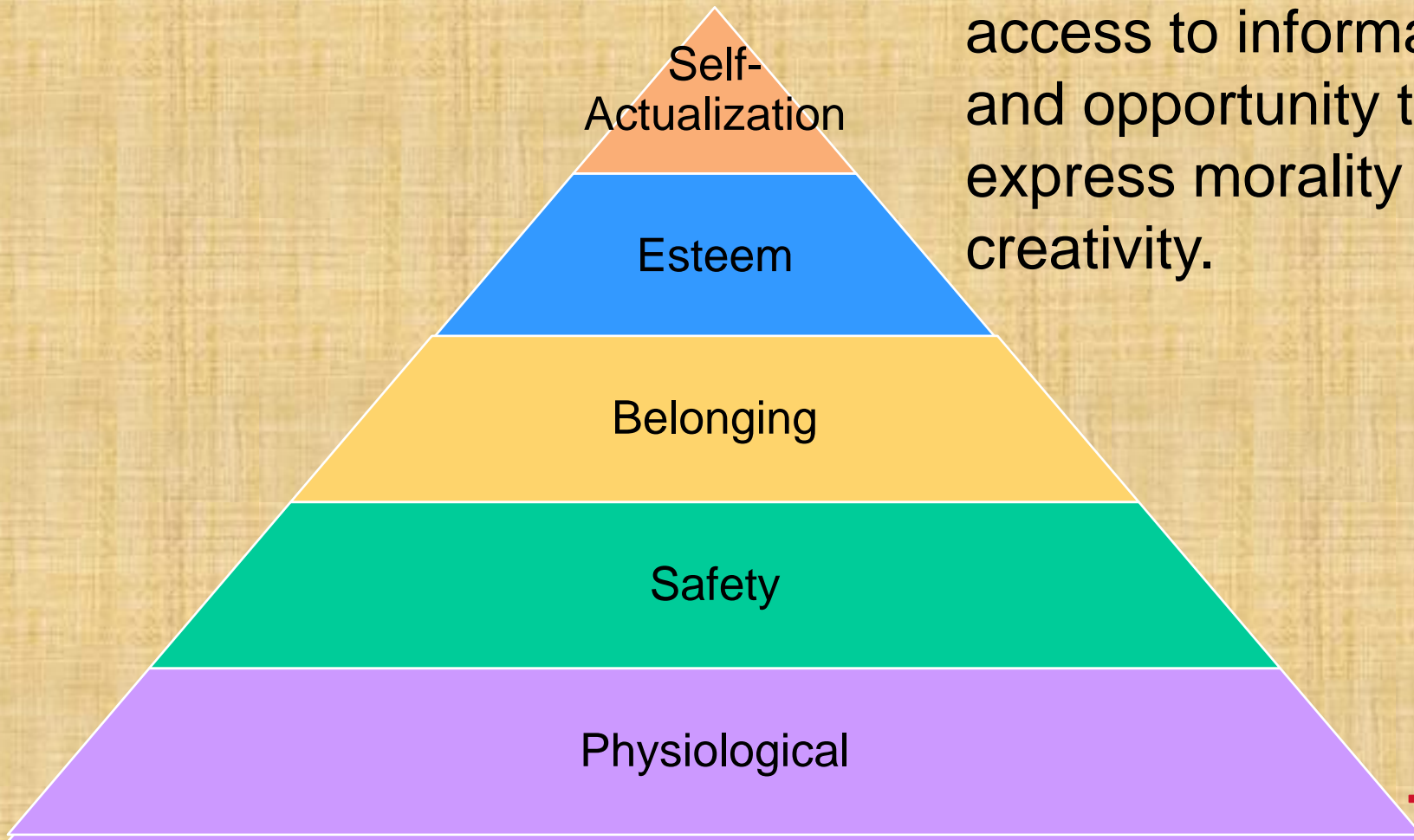
How are these needs impacted by Language delay?

- Language allows us to communicate unique ideas, be respected by others & develop executive function skills.

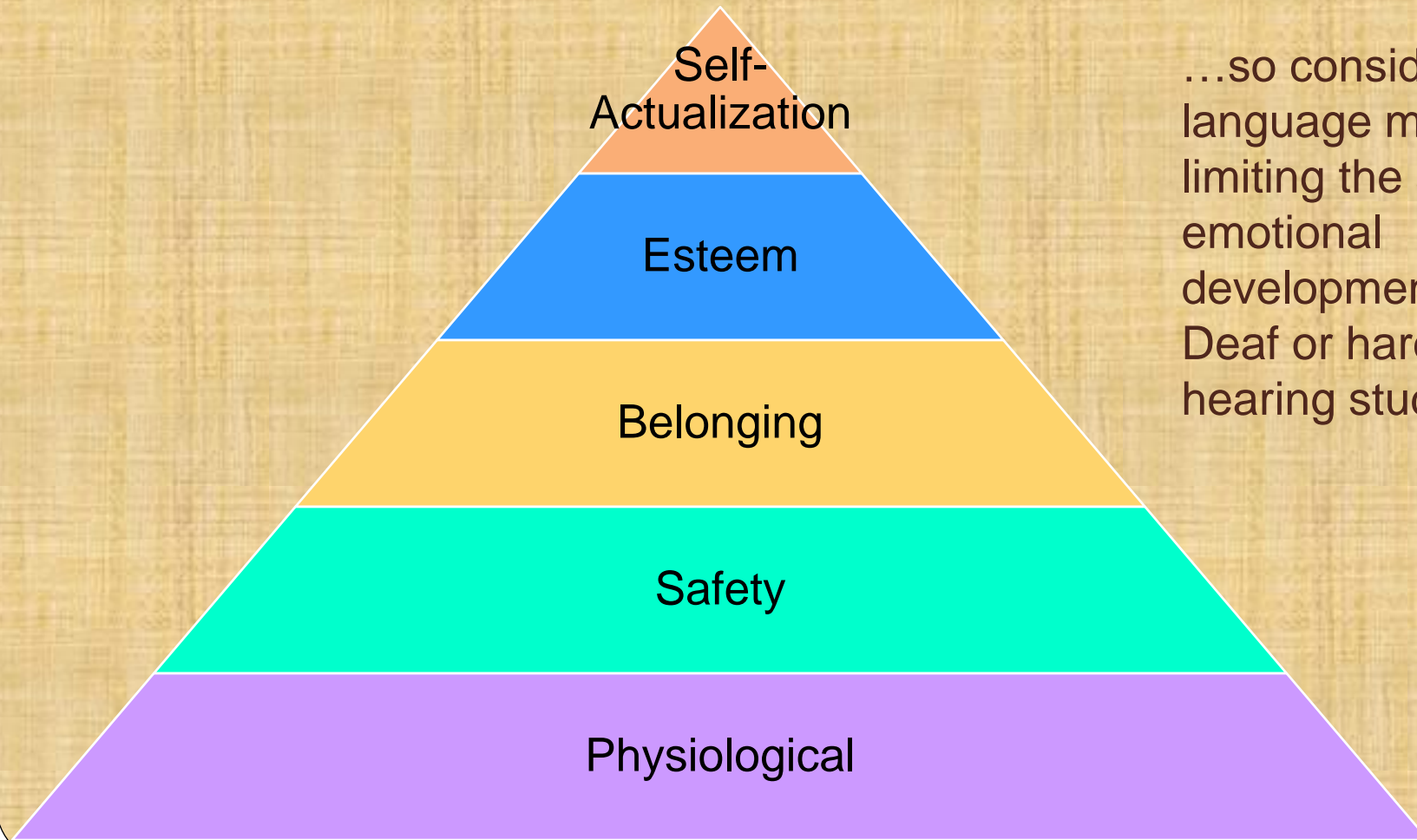


How are these needs impacted by Language delay?

- Language allows access to information and opportunity to express morality and creativity.



Maslow tells us that higher level growth cannot be achieved while lower level needs are not met...



...so consider how language may be limiting the social and emotional development of a Deaf or hard of hearing student



Possible Psychosocial Impact by Hearing Level



- May be unaware of subtle conversational cues, which may be viewed as inappropriate or awkward
- May miss portions of fast-paced peer interactions
- May have immature behavior
- Listening efforts may cause fatigue

Adapted from Anderson, K.L., & Matkin, N. (1991) "Relationship of Degree of Long-Term Hearing Loss to Psychosocial Impact and Functional Needs"



Possible Psychosocial Impact by Hearing Level

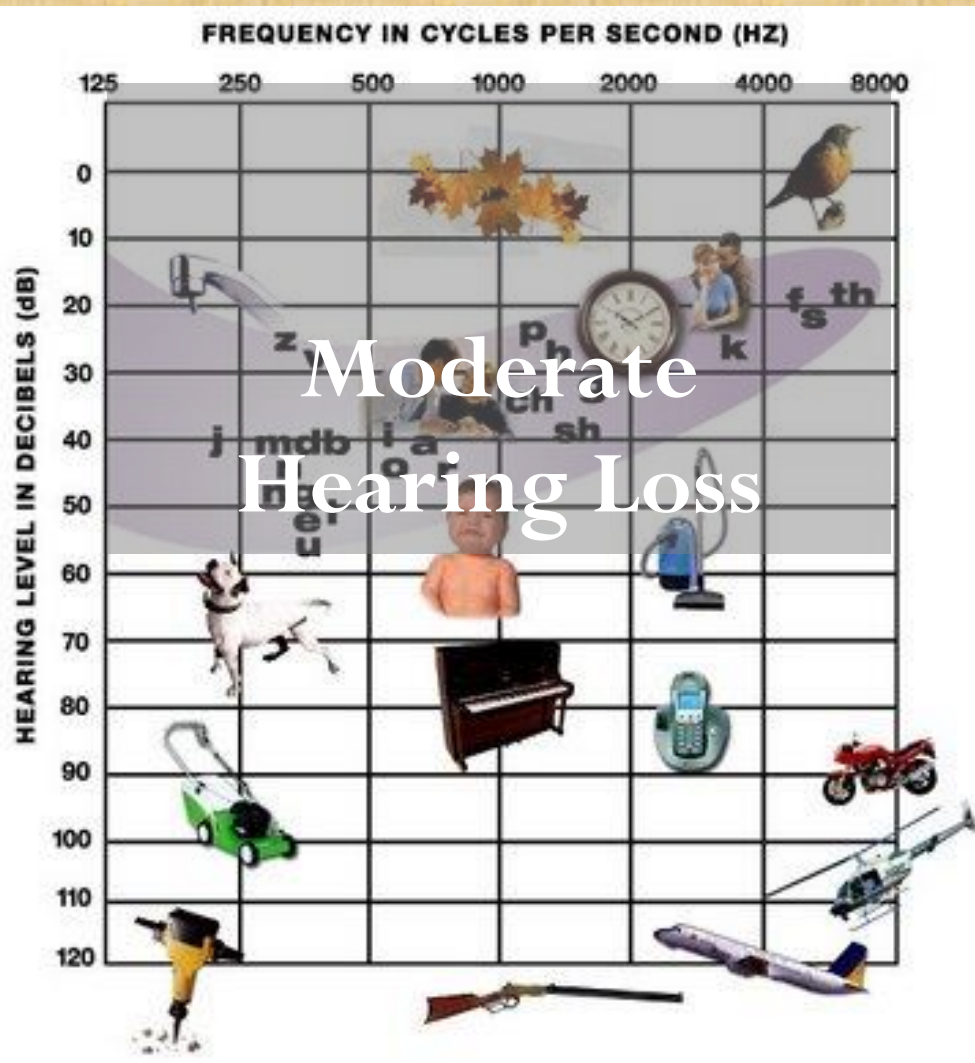


- Loss of ability for selective hearing & increased difficulty suppressing background noise makes learning environment more stressful
- Increased fatigue
- Communication barriers create negative impact on self esteem
- Child accused of “hearing when he wants” and “daydreaming” and “not paying attention”

Adapted from Anderson, K.L., & Matkin, N. (1991) “Relationship of Degree of Long-Term Hearing Loss to Psychosocial Impact and Functional Needs”



Possible Psychosocial Impact by Hearing Level

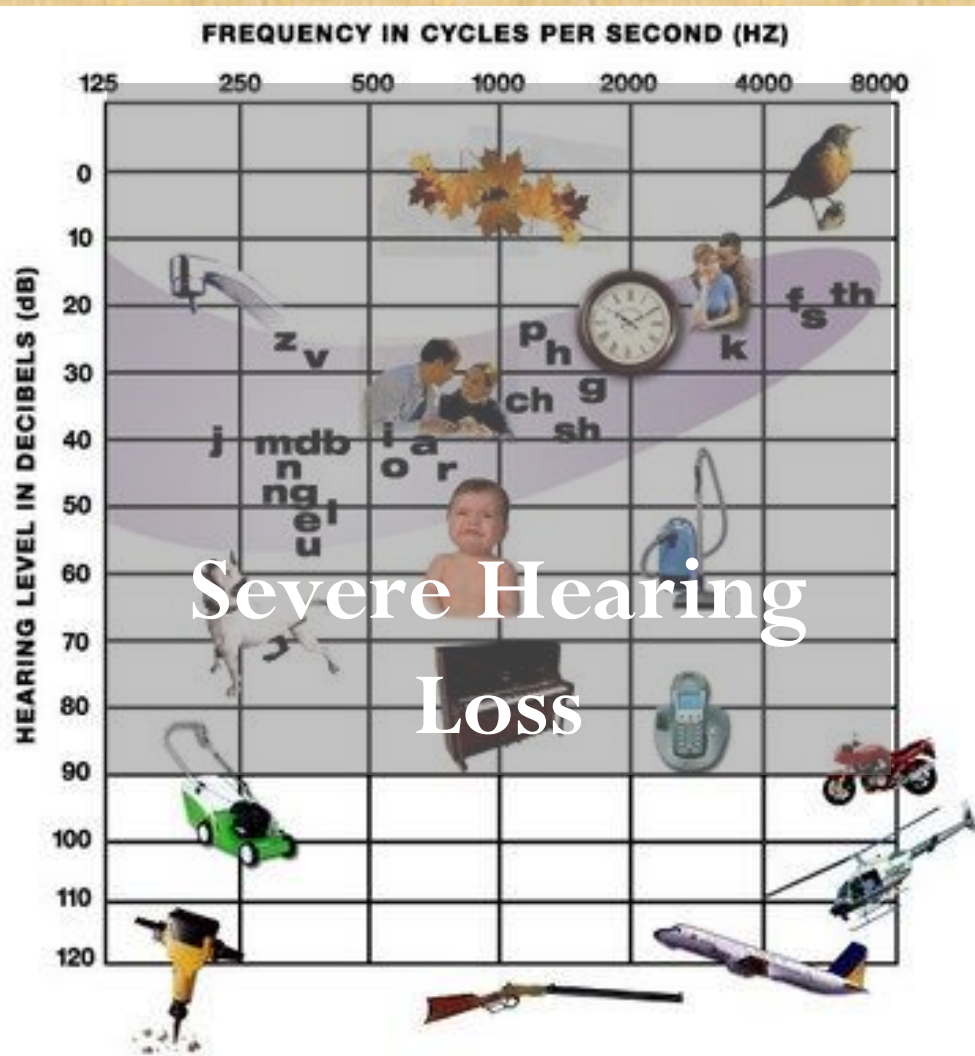


- Communication can be significantly affected
- Socialization with peers becomes difficult
- Child may be judged as less competent
- Impact on self-esteem

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Possible Psychosocial Impact by Hearing Level

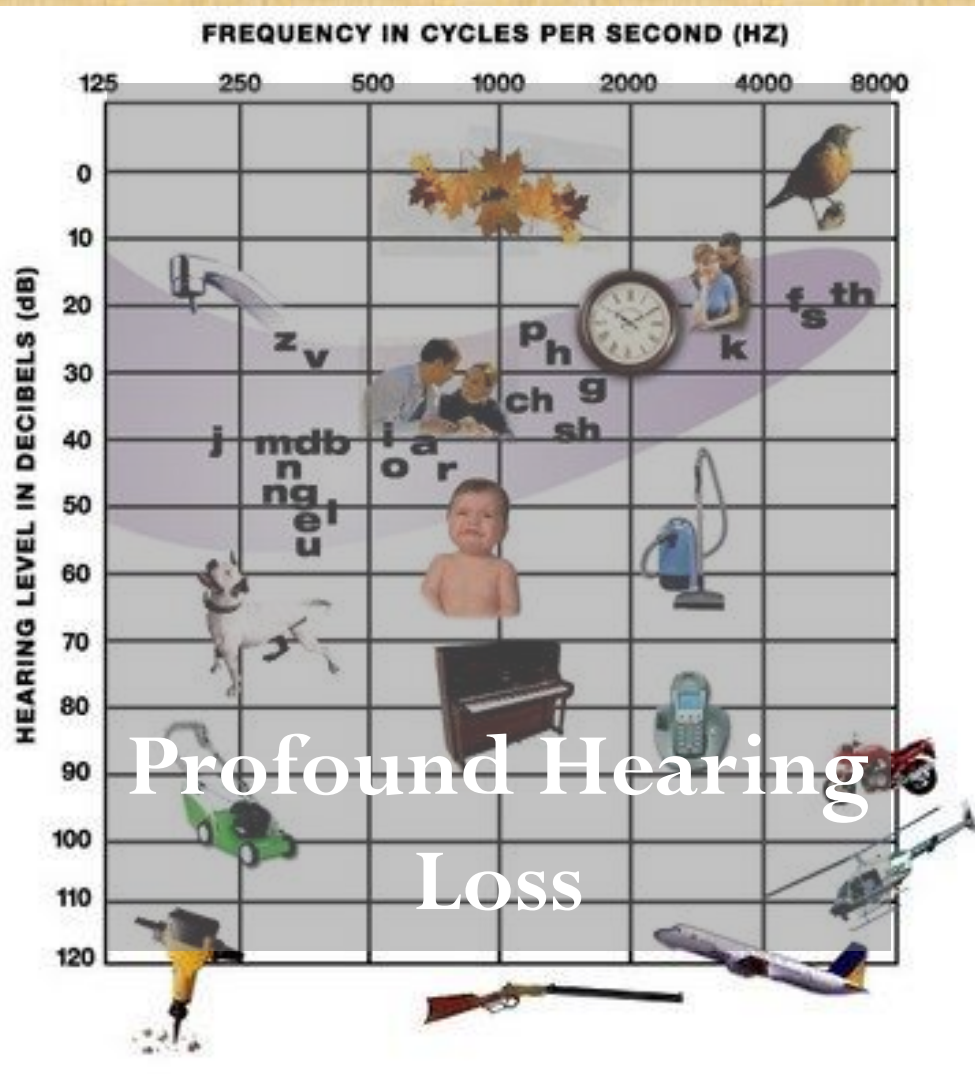


- Use of an interpreter or hearing aids & FM systems may result in child being judged by both peers and adults as less competent, resulting in poorer self concept, social maturity & contribute to a sense of rejection

Adapted from Anderson, K.L., & Matkin, N. (1991) "Relationship of Degree of Long-Term Hearing Loss to Psychosocial Impact and Functional Needs"



Possible Psychosocial Impact by Hearing Level



- Child is more likely to prefer other children with a hearing loss as friends. These peer relationships (when available) can foster improved self-concept & a sense of cultural identity which can improve a child's ability to self advocate

Adapted from Anderson, K.L., & Matkin, N. (1991) "Relationship of Degree of Long-Term Hearing Loss to Psychosocial Impact and Functional Needs"



Impact of Hearing Loss

Language and Communication

IMPACTS ABILITY ...

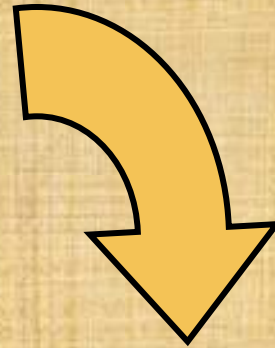
- to effectively communicate needs and wants
- to understand receptive language
- to communicate in a variety of settings
- to develop vocabulary
- to use language to reason, solve problems, to plan ahead, and think abstractly
- to use language to develop imagination and creativity

Psycho-Social Factors

IMPACTS TENDENCY...

- for fatigue due to increased effort in listening and understanding
- to miss subtle cues in conversations
- to develop low self-esteem
- to be accused of not paying attention
- to lack friends or be uncomfortable socially
- to struggle filtering out background noise
- to be judged as less competent.

Hearing Students



What do they
have access to?

JOKES

TEACHER'S
LESSONS

LUNCH
ROOM

SPORTS

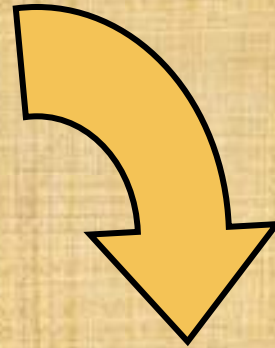
HALLWAY
TALK

TV

MUCH
MORE



Deaf and
Hard of Hearing
Students



What **should** they
have access to?

JOKES

TEACHER'S
LESSONS

LUNCH
ROOM

SPORTS

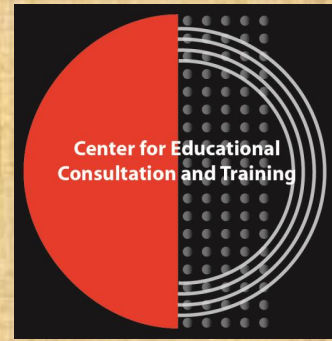
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NMSD CECT Services



- o Individualized consultation to students and education teams
- o IEP attendance and assistance in developing the Communications Consideration Addendum
- o Classroom observations
- o Student evaluations and career assessments
- o Online lending library - <http://nmsdoutreachlibrary.org/>
- o Statewide & regional trainings
- o Program or student specific workshops
- o AmeriCorps sign language instruction program

Contact Information

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