

## EAR PLUGS

### Objective

This activity is designed to allow the students the experience of functioning with a slight hearing loss.

### Materials

- Cotton balls or ear plugs

### Activity

1. Have some of the students put cotton balls or ear plugs in their ears. (Students can take turns trying this activity.)
2. Conduct the class as usual—including perhaps a spelling test or a question and answer period where the students are dependent on auditory cues. Talk softly.

### Discussion

Talk as a group about how it feels to have a partial hearing impairment. How did the students deal with it? Were they comfortable asking questions to get information that they had missed? Did they ask other people to speak louder?

- As a follow-up activity, you can contact an audiologist at the Hearing Conservation Center (805-437-1380) and ask if he/she would come to visit the class and bring some of the testing equipment used. The audiologist can talk about different degrees of decibel loss and demonstrate how a hearing aid helps.

\* Adapted from Barnes, Berrigan & Biklen, *What's the Difference*, Human Policy Press, 1978

