

February 11, 2004

Deanna Meinke
Associates in Acoustics
1112 73rd Ave
Greeley CO 80634-5114

Dear Deanna:

Thanks for your question about hearing protectors suitable for school-age children.

For very young children who may not be able to effectively insert devices into the ear, we often recommend semi-aural hearing protectors, such as the 3M™ Banded Hearing Protector 1310. These are “cap-style” foam pads on a flexible band that occlude the ear canal opening and are simple to use

For school age children, 3M recommends foam ear plugs which conform to size and shape of smaller ear canals and can be easily rolled down for insertion. The 3M™ Soft Foam Ear Plugs 1120 and Corded Soft Foam Ear Plugs 1130 are such ear plugs. Proper training is necessary to assure that the plugs are inserted properly.

For older children who are closer to adults in size, ear muffs are appropriate and easy to use without formal training.

I hope these general recommendations are helpful. I am enclosing a document containing more specific information on each model.

Please feel free to call me at 651-575-5575 or contact 3M at 800-243-4630 for more information on 3M Hearing Protectors. You may also wish to visit our web site at: <http://www.3m.com/occsafety/>

Cordially,

Ted K. Madison, M.A., CCC-A
Senior Technical Service Representative