**Module 4D: Using a sensory profile to personalise a learner with autism’s learning experience in the classroom.**

**Hearing Sensory Issues: Positive and Protective Strategies**

A classroom can be a very noisy place! If increased noise is a sensory dislike for a learner, then we need to be able to reduce this barrier to learning.

Sound may be coming from several different sources. Children’s and adults’ voices are the first to come to mind. But what about these other sound sources?

• noise from corridors/other classes/outdoor activities

• road noise/air traffic noise

• IT equipment - projectors/computers etc.

• furniture

• fluorescent lighting

**Positive and protective strategies include:**

• providing a learner with hearing protection such as ear defenders, regular headphones or noise cancelling headphones

• changing the acoustics in the classroom by introducing carpets, covering hard surfaces with soft materials, sound proofing walls or ceilings

• using an umbrella for one to one work

• creating a den with a tent and a blanket over the top

• simplify verbal instructions by allowing a pupil to listen to a recording of instructions rather than giving this against a background of another classroom sound.