

Hearing Loss in Children

**What every parent should
know about hearing loss**

What is hearing loss and deafness?



A person with hearing loss cannot hear as well as someone who has normal hearing.

Hearing loss can:

- Be mild (can hear most things) to profound (completely deaf and cannot hear anything)
- Affect one ear or both ears

Around 466 million people worldwide have disabling hearing loss, and 34 million of these are children

60% of childhood hearing loss is due to preventable causes

What is the impact of hearing loss in children?

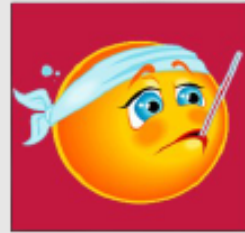
Babies need to hear speech so that they can develop listening and language skills. Without proper intervention deaf babies do not learn language and speech, which can have an effect on their progress at school, making friends and finding a job in the future.



What are the causes of hearing loss in children?



Infection during pregnancy
Infection during childhood
(measles, meningitis, mumps)



Severe jaundice in
new-born's
Lack of oxygen at birth



Trauma to the head
or ear



Continuous loud
noises (example:
loud music)



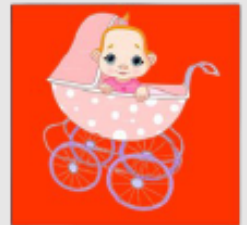
Recurrent ear
infections or
fluid in the ear



Genetics: changes in
the instructions of
the body



Usage of certain
medication during
pregnancy
Usage of certain
medication during
childhood



Low birth weight

When to suspect hearing loss in babies

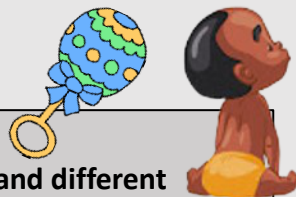
0 – 3 months

1. Doesn't respond to loud sounds, noise & music
2. Doesn't find soft sounds soothing
3. By 2 months doesn't make vowel sounds like 'ooh'
4. By 2 months doesn't become quiet when people speak



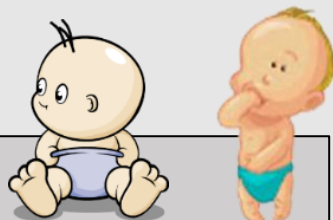
4 – 8 months

1. Doesn't turn head towards sound
2. Doesn't respond to changes in tone of voice and different sounds
3. Doesn't have interest in toys that make noises
4. Doesn't babble when playing or to respond to others
5. By 6 months doesn't try to copy sounds
6. Pays attention to vibrations (because they are felt) instead of noises



9 – 12 months

1. Doesn't respond to his/her name
2. Doesn't turn quickly towards a soft sound
3. Doesn't have different voice pitches when babbling and doesn't make different sounds
4. Doesn't listen to or bounce along to music
5. By 1 years old doesn't say single words like 'mama' or 'papa'
6. Doesn't understand words for common items and people (example: water, daddy)
7. Doesn't respond to simple words and phrases like "No," "Come here"



How to reduce the chances of hearing loss



Vaccinate children against childhood diseases
Get vaccinated for diseases like rubella before pregnancy



Get proper medical care if your child has recurrent ear infections



Follow healthy ear care practices



Avoid infections/illness during pregnancy



Avoid the use of particular drugs which may be harmful to hearing



Have a healthy lifestyle during pregnancy including routine prenatal care



Reduce exposure to loud sounds

What to do if you suspect your child has hearing loss

Take them to your clinic or doctor so that a hearing test can be arranged



Do not wait long to take them for a hearing test. The sooner the hearing problem is found, the sooner your child can receive help



Interventions for children with hearing loss



Hearing aids and cochlear implants



Learning sign language



Speech therapy



Support groups for children and families

Early intervention is very important because it leads to better outcomes for children.

For example, babies whose hearing loss is diagnosed by 3 months old and intervention implemented by 6 months of age can develop speech and language similar to their friends with normal hearing



Test your hearing today

Use the HearWHO app created by the World Health Organization to test your child's and your own hearing. This testing tool is suitable for older children and adults.



To do a test:

Download the app from your Google play store

- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.hearxgroup.hearwho>

Download the app from your App store -

- <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/hearwho-check-your-hearing/id1449966543?ls=1>

This is a screening application and does not replace a proper medical audiological examination. If you fail the test, make an appointment at your clinic or doctor to have a proper hearing test done!



Fighting hearing loss and creating a better life for your children, because they deserve it

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