

Healthy Eyes, Ears, and Teeth!

Ages 0 - 4

HEALTHY EARS



Hearing loss is when a part of the ear is not working the right way. It can affect one or both ears. Hearing loss may cause problems with speech, learning, social skills, and other behavior



How can I help my baby's ears stay healthy?

Baby can. . .

Parents can. . .

0 - 3 Months

- Recognize parents' voices
- React to loud sounds
- Receive screening for hearing loss at birth

- Make sure the baby passes the newborn screening test
- Coo, sing, and speak to baby every day

4 - 6 Months

- Follow sounds with eyes
- Laugh and babble
- Listen to music
- Notice changes in tone

- Give toys that make sounds, like rattles
- Imitate baby's sounds to create "conversation"

7 - 12 Months

- Understand basic words
- Practice different sounds
- Have 1 or 2 words by their first birthday

- Play "peek-a-boo"
- Name items as baby points
- Respond to baby's sounds, gestures, and words

1 - 2 Years

- Sing simple songs
- Follow basic directions
- Use 2-word phrases by second birthday

- Give simple directions
- Read books together
- Teach baby songs, stories, and rhymes

3 - 4 Years

- Hear from the other room
- Answer simple questions
- Use 4-word sentences by third birthday

- Ask simple questions
- Teach child family memories and stories

If your baby seems several months behind, talk to your doctor about a hearing screening

What are warning signs of hearing loss?

If you notice any of the following symptoms, talk to your doctor about a hearing screening:

- Late to speaking as a toddler
- Does not speak clearly
- Often asks "huh?" or to repeat phrases
- Turns the volume too high on TV or music
- Does not react to loud noises
- Does not respond to your voice
- Often touches ears, shakes head, or shows other signs of ear pain

