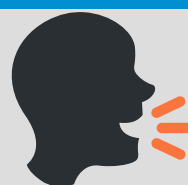


# Keeping Kids' Eyes, Ears, and Teeth Healthy!

## HEALTHY EARS

### Why should ears stay healthy?



- Children may get hearing problems as they grow up
- Even a mild hearing problem can have a big impact on children's ability to learn how to read, speak, and make friends.
- It can be hard for children to learn in school if they have an untreated hearing problem

### How often should students get their hearing screened?

- At least **once per year.** This usually happens during their regular doctor check-up once your child turns 4. If you are concerned about your child's hearing before age 4, be sure to bring it up with your doctor because there are special tests that can be done to check hearing in very young children.
- Most kids with mild hearing loss don't show any signs of hearing problems. It's hard to know when you're not hearing everything. Our brains do a really good job of making us think that we are hearing everything



### Visit a doctor if you notice your child:

- Was late to begin speaking as a toddler
- Does not speak clearly
- Does not follow directions (you may think they are not paying attention or just ignoring you)
- Often says, "Huh?"
- Turns the TV volume up too high
- Has no reaction to loud noises
- Shows no response to your voice
- Complains of earaches, ear pain or head noises

### Where can I get my child's eyes screened?



- A doctor should screen for hearing problems during your child's annual check-up/
- Ask your child's teacher or school nurse if hearing screenings happen at your child's school!



### What can I do at home?

- If your child fails a hearing screening, make an appointment with a hearing specialist or audiologist
- If your child's school has a hearing program, fill out all the paperwork to make sure they can get screened and tested in school!