

**Box 18-4****Clinical Manifestations of Hearing Impairment****Infants**

- Lack of startle or blink reflex to a loud sound
- Failure to be awakened by loud environmental noises
- Failure to localize a source of sound by 6 months old
- Absence of babble or voice inflections by 7 months old
- General indifference to sound
- Lack of response to the spoken word; failure to follow verbal directions
- Response to loud noises as opposed to the voice

**Children**

- Use of gestures rather than verbalization to express desires, especially after 15 months old
- Failure to develop intelligible speech by 24 months old
- Monotone and unintelligible speech; lessened laughter
- Vocal play, head banging, or foot stamping for vibratory sensation
- Yelling or screeching to express pleasure, needs, or annoyance
- Asking to have statements repeated or answering them incorrectly
- Greater response to facial expression and gestures than to verbal explanation
- Avoidance of social interaction; prefer to play alone