

How to explain a genetic condition to your child

Children can start asking why they have a hearing loss from a young age. It is not an easy discussion, and there are no hard and fast rules. Genetics is a complex topic, and the amount of information they need will depend on their age. Young children benefit from small amounts of information. They can also be more accepting of the cause of their hearing loss than older children. Providing information gradually throughout childhood can be a helpful way of improving their understanding as they grow. Remember to tailor the information to your child's age.

You don't need to be the expert. It is okay not to know the answer to every question. Take note of your child's questions and tell them you will try to find the answers so you can learn together. If you are having trouble explaining genetics to your child, you can ask a specialist or genetic counsellor to assist.

Your child should know
they can come to you
anytime to discuss
their hearing loss and
its cause.

