



Home → Health Topics → Hearing Problems in Children

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/hearingproblemsinchildren.html>

Hearing Problems in Children

Most children hear and listen from the moment they are born. They learn to talk by imitating the sounds around them and the voices of their parents and caregivers. But about 2 or 3 out of every 1,000 children in the United States are born deaf or hard-of-hearing. More lose their hearing later during childhood.

Babies should have a hearing screening before they are a month old. If your child has a hearing loss, it is important to consider the use of hearing devices and other communication options by age 6 months. That's because children start learning speech and language long before they talk.

Hearing problems can be temporary or permanent. Sometimes, ear infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/earinfections.html>] , injuries or diseases affect hearing. If your child does not hear well, get help.

NIH: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

Start Here

- Hearing Loss in Children [<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Your Baby's Hearing and Communicative Development Checklist [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/your-babys-hearing-and-communicative-development-checklist>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/es/espanol/etapas-del-desarrollo-de-la-audicion-y-la-comunicacion-del-bebe>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Hearing Tests for Children [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/hearing-tests-for-children/>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pruebas-de-audicion-para-ninos/>]
- Screening for Hearing Loss [<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/screening/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Testing Baby's Hearing [<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2022/03/testing-baby-s-hearing>]  (National Institutes of Health)
Also in Spanish [<https://salud.nih.gov/recursos-de-salud/nih-noticias-de-salud/evaluando-la-audicion-del-bebe>]

Prevention and Risk Factors

- Hearing Tests (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/hear.html>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/hear.html>]

Treatments and Therapies

- Treatment and Intervention for Hearing Loss [<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/treatment/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Living With

- Assistive Devices: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/assistivedevices.html>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/assistivedevices.html>]

Related Issues

- American Sign Language [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/american-sign-language>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
- Building Communication Skills [<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children-guide/parents-guide/building-languages.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Earbuds [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/earbuds.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/earbuds.html>]
- Ototoxicity (Ear Poisoning) (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/ototoxicity.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/ototoxicity.html>]

Specifics

- Auditory Neuropathy [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/auditory-neuropathy>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/es/espanol/neuropatia-auditiva>]
- Auditory Processing Disorder (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/central-auditory.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/central-auditory.html>]
- Aural Atresia (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/aural-atresia.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/aural-atresia.html>]
- Ear Injuries (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/ear-injuries.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/ear-injuries.html>]
- Enlarged Vestibular Aqueducts and Childhood Hearing Loss [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/enlarged-vestibular-aqueducts-and-childhood-hearing-loss>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/es/espanol/acueductos-vestibulares-dilatados-y-la-perdida-de-audicion-en-los-ninos>]
- Pendred Syndrome [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/pendred-syndrome>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/es/espanol/sindrome-de-pendred>]
- Types of Hearing Loss [<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/about/types-of-hearing-loss.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Genetics

- About Genetics and Hearing Loss [<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children-guide/parents-guide-genetics/about-genetics-and-hearing-loss.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- CHARGE syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/charge-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Deafness and myopia syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/deafness-and-myopia-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Thiamine-responsive megaloblastic anemia syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/thiamine-responsive-megaloblastic-anemia-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)

Videos and Tutorials

- Hearing and the cochlea [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000063.htm>]  (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000063.htm>]

Statistics and Research

- Data and Statistics About Hearing Loss in Children [<https://www.cdc.gov/hearing-loss-children/data/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Deafness in Children [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=deafness&aggFilters=ages:child,status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Hearing Disorders in Children [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Hearing%20Disorders%22&aggFilters=ages:child,status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Preliminary study on the neural mechanisms of four tone recognition in... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40717154>]
- Article: A Unique Approach to Addressing Pediatric Hearing Loss in Low-Resource Countries:... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40718942>]
- Article: Perspectives on the Contributions of Phonology and Morphology to the Development... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40718941>]
- Hearing Problems in Children -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Hearing+Disorders%22%5Bmajr%5D+AND+child+%5Bmh%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

Reference Desk

- Glossary [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/glossary>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
- Your Ears [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/ears.html>]  (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/ear.html>]

Find an Expert

- Directory of Organizations [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/directory>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
- Find an Audiologist [<https://members.audiology.org/cvweb/cgi-bin/memberdli.dll/info?wpr=find-an-audiologist.htm>] (American Academy of Audiology)
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov>] 

Children

- Can Loud Music Hurt My Ears? [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/rock-music.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/rock-music.html>]
- Going to the Audiologist [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/hearing-test.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/hearing-test.html>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Audiometry [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003341.htm>]

Ear examination [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003340.htm>]

Hearing and the cochlea [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000063.htm>]

Hearing loss - infants [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007322.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Assistive Devices [<https://medlineplus.gov/assistivedevices.html>]

Cochlear Implants [<https://medlineplus.gov/cochlearimplants.html>]

Hearing Aids [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearingaids.html>]

Hearing Disorders and Deafness [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearingdisordersanddeafness.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Hearing Problems in Children* is the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English

[<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/hearingproblemsinchildren.html>] on *Hearing Problems in Children*

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies. MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our [disclaimer](#) [<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our [quality guidelines](#) [<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>] .

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

National Library of Medicine 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20894 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health

Last updated April 6, 2023