



Understanding Childhood Hearing Loss: A Parent's Guide



Copyright © 2024 Inspire Allied Health and Education Group PTY LTD.

All rights reserved.

The content of this information, including but not limited to all text, graphics, images, and other materials, is owned by Inspire Allied Health and Education Group PTY LTD and is protected by Australian copyright laws and international treaty provisions. This information is licensed for use, not sold. Unauthorised reproduction or distribution of this program, or any portion of it, may result in severe civil and criminal penalties, and will be prosecuted to the maximum extent possible under the law.

For permissions requests, please contact

Rebecca Garnsey @ rebecca.garnsey@inspireaheg.com.au

Inspire Allied Health and Education Group PTY LTD

PO Box 275,

Camden NSW 2570

Australia

Disclaimer:

The information provided by Inspire Allied Health and Education Group PTY LTD has been designed by allied health professionals and is intended for general purposes only and is not tailored to the specific circumstances of any individual. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or individual treatment.

Furthermore, Inspire Allied Health and Education Group PTY LTD cannot be held responsible for any misuse, misinterpretation or adverse effects that may arise from the use of this information. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided, Inspire Allied Health and Education Group assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

By using this information, you agree to release and hold harmless Inspire Allied Health and Education Group PTY LTD and its employees, agents, and representatives from any and all claims, demands, and damages (actual and consequential) of every kind and nature, known and unknown, suspected and unsuspected, disclosed and undisclosed, arising out of or in any way connected with your use of this program.

If you have any questions, please contact Inspire Allied Health and Education Group's CEO at rebecca.garnsey@inspireaheg.com.au

Inspire Allied Health and Education Group PTY LTD

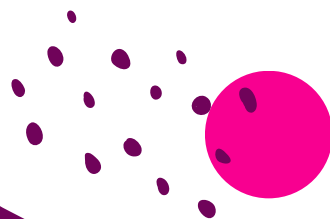
PO Box 275,

Camden NSW 2570

Australia

Childhood Hearing Loss:

Childhood hearing loss refers to a condition where a child experiences a partial or complete inability to hear sounds in one or both ears. It can occur at birth (congenital) or develop later in childhood (acquired) and may impact a child's speech, language, cognition, social and emotional development.



Statistics:

-
- 1 in 25 children have some form of hearing loss (conductive or sensorineural).
 - 30% of children with hearing loss also have additional learning needs.
 - Hearing loss can affect speech and language development, cognitive development, academic performance, social interactions, and emotional and emotional development.



Types and Causes of Hearing Loss:

Conductive Hearing Loss: Caused by issues in the ear canal, eardrum, or middle ear. Problems occur here in the outer or middle ear, preventing sound from reaching the inner ear. Common causes include wax build-up, ear infections, fluid in the middle ear or abnormalities in the ear structure.

Sensorineural Hearing Loss: Results from damage to the inner ear or auditory nerve. It can be congenital or acquired throughout the life span.

Mixed Hearing Loss: A combination of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss which impacts the outer, middle, and inner ear.

In addition, hearing loss can be unilateral (one ear) or bilateral (both ears). It can have a sudden or rapid onset, can be progressive and can occur with high and low frequency sounds.



Checklist for Parents: Recognising Characteristics of Childhood Hearing Loss:

- ✓ Limited response to sounds or name calling
- ✓ Delayed or absent speech
- ✓ Difficulty following directions
- ✓ Frequent ear infections
- ✓ Inconsistency in responding to sounds
- ✓ Difficulty understanding speech in noisy environments
- ✓ Frequent requests for repetition
- ✓ Inattentiveness or poor academic performance
- ✓ Social withdrawal or frustration

Diagnosis:

Audiologists test and diagnose childhood hearing loss.

The Importance of a Hearing Assessment:

Hearing is essential for child development. It plays a crucial role in a child's ability to learn language, communicate effectively and engage in the world around them. Left undetected hearing loss can lead to delays in speech and language development, impacting on social and academic success.



Assessment of Childhood Hearing Loss:

-
- 1. Newborn Hearing Screening:** In Australia, universal newborn screening is performed shortly after birth.
 - 2. Screening Audiometry:** This is a simple and quick test that can be performed on children of all ages. It involves playing sounds or tones and observing a child's responses.
 - 3. Diagnostic Audiometry:** If a hearing issue is suspected, a diagnostic audiometry test can provide more detailed information about your children's hearing abilities.
 - 4. Pure-tone testing (also called an air conduction test):** requires a response from a child either by raising a hand, finger or pressing a button. Headphones are worn and ears are tested one at a time, assessing how sound travels from the outer through to the middle ear.
 - 5. Visual Reinforcement Audiometry:** Suitable for toddlers and young children, this test teaches children to look where a sound comes from. When they look to the sound, they see a moving toy or flashing light, rewarding them for looking at the sound.

-
6. **Conditioned Play Audiometry:** Suitable for toddlers and young children, this test teaches children to do something when they hear a sound e.g. put a peg in a hole or ring on a cone.
 7. **Bone Conduction Testing:** Used when an audiologist suspects a blockage in the middle ear. For this test, the audiologist will put a small device behind the ear or on the forehead. Sounds are sent through the device causing the skull to vibrate going directly to the inner ear (cochlea) skipping the outer and middle ear.



Management of a Diagnosed Hearing Loss:

Hearing loss can be managed several ways with children:

1. **Grommets (Tympanostomy Tubes):** Small tubes inserted into the eardrum to drain fluid and improve hearing.
2. **Hearing Aids:** Devices amplifying sound for individuals with hearing loss.
3. **Cochlear Implants:** Provide the sensation of hearing through a specific device in which one part is worn like a hearing aid and the other being surgically implanted.



Steps to Take if You Suspect Hearing Loss:

1. Consult a Paediatrician or Family Doctor.

2. Consult an Audiologist for a hearing assessment.

3. Seek support from early intervention programs.

4. Consult a Speech Pathologist.



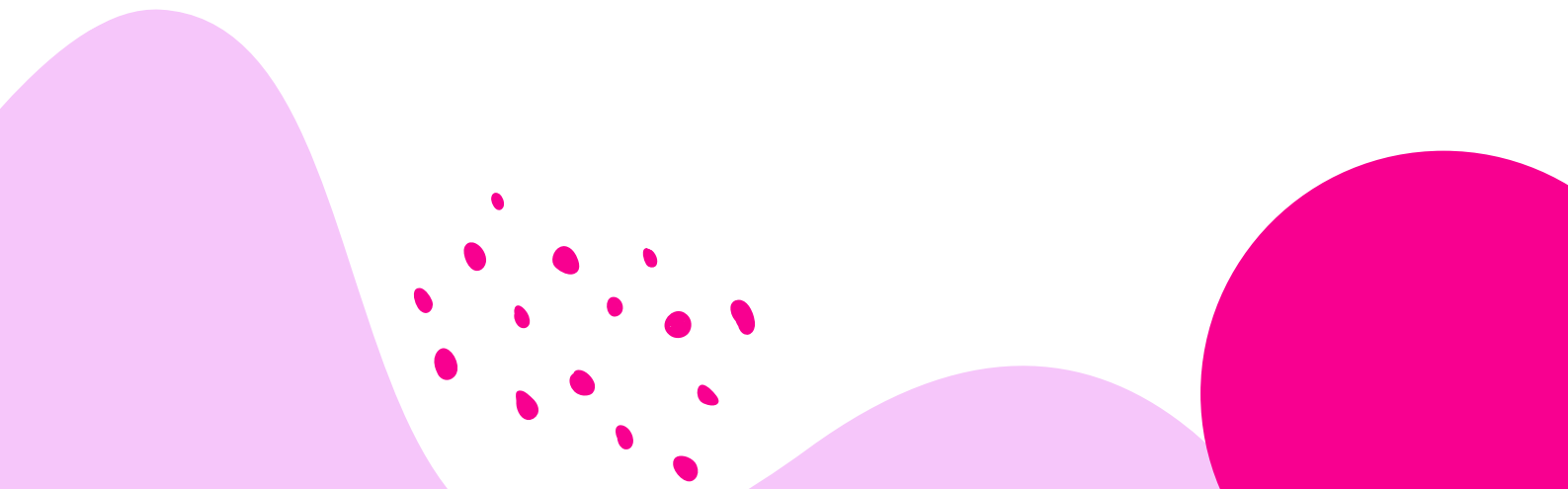
Supporting a Child with Hearing Loss:

-
- **Educational Accommodations:** Work with educators to ensure appropriate accommodations.
 - **Speech Therapy:** Enhance communication skills.
 - **Encourage Peer Inclusion:** Foster positive relationships with peers.
 - **Family Counselling:** Support families in understanding and coping and managing hearing loss.

Strategies for Children with Hearing Loss:

A range of strategies can be used to support children with hearing loss:

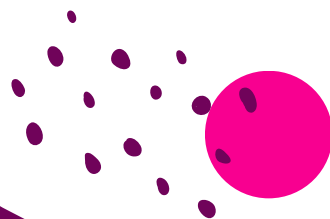
- **Facial Expressions and Visual Cues:** Use visual cues to aid communication.
- **Utilise Assistive Technology:** Explore hearing aids and FM systems.
- **Maintain Consistent Routines:** Provide predictability in daily activities.
- **Encourage Active Listening:** Teach strategies to enhance listening skills.
- **Advocate for Accessibility:** Ensure public spaces are conducive to those with hearing loss.
- **Captioned Media:** Use subtitles for videos and TV shows.
- **Encourage Peer Education:** Foster understanding among classmates.
- **Promote Self-Advocacy:** Teach the child to express their needs.
- **Provide Quiet Spaces:** Offer breaks from auditory stimuli.

- **Encourage Hobbies:** Develop interests and foster participation in a range of activities.
 - **Use Visual Schedules:** Aid understanding of daily routines.
 - **Explore Sign Language:** Consider learning basic sign language.
 - **Regular Auditory Checkups:** Monitor and adjust hearing devices as needed.
 - **Positive Reinforcement:** Celebrate achievements and efforts.
 - **Encourage Reading:** Support language development through literature.
- 

Conclusion:

Early detection and intervention are critical in supporting children with hearing loss. By understanding the characteristics, seeking timely assessments, and implementing strategies to enhance communication, parents can empower their child to navigate the world with confidence.

Collaborating with healthcare professionals, educators, and support services ensures a holistic approach to a child's development and well-being.





Contact

Phone Number: (02) 4666 4255 / (02) 4648 0837

Email: hr@inspireaheg.com.au

Website: www.inspireaheg.com.au

 www.inspireaheg.com.au

 [@inspireahegrp](https://www.instagram.com/inspireahegrp)

 [inspireahegrp](https://www.facebook.com/inspireahegrp)

Interested in our services? Click the link below to register:

[https://macarthurchildrensdevelopmentalclinic.snapforms.com
.au/form/participant-intake-form](https://macarthurchildrensdevelopmentalclinic.snapforms.com.au/form/participant-intake-form)

