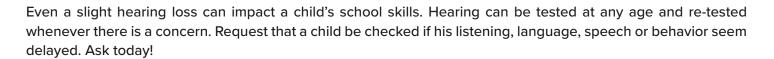
Ideas & Advice for Parents of Children with Hearing Loss

School Readiness: Check a Child's Hearing

A child may develop hearing loss at any time for many reasons. Sometimes a child's hearing loss is not noticed or may be misinterpreted. If a child shows several of the behaviors listed below, he may be at risk for hearing loss. A hearing screening can identify if he needs help with hearing or learning to listen.

Preschool behaviors that may indicate hearing loss include:

- 1. Responds inconsistently to sounds.
- 2. Does not look or come when his name is called.
- 3. Reports a history of ear infections.
- 4. Complains of ear pain or head noises.
- 5. Raises volume on the TV or video player.
- 6. Turns so one ear is closest to the source of sound.
- 7. Speaks unclearly or has delayed speech for his age.
- 8. Talks in a very soft or very loud voice.
- 9. Says "huh" or "what" frequently.
- 10. Confuses words that sound alike.
- 11. Observes others to imitate their actions.
- 12. Watches people's faces intently when they talk.
- 13. Reacts inconsistently in noisy situations.
- 14. Misunderstands what people say frequently.
- 15. Takes a long time to respond to what is said.
- 16. Has trouble listening to and discussing a story.
- 17. Struggles to follow a sequence of directions.
- 18. Explains he forgot or doesn't remember what was heard.
- 19. Appears fearful, shy or prefers to play alone.
- 20. Seems to be unmotivated, inattentive or becomes distracted easily.
- 21. Is described as aggressive, destructive or overactive.
- 22. Looks frustrated, uncooperative or seems to have difficulty learning.
- 23. Uses limited vocabulary, simple sentences and short answers.
- 24. Demonstrates below age-level school readiness skills.



With strong school and home support a child with hearing loss can become a highly successful student.

