



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.



Even a slight hearing loss can impact a child's school skills. Hearing can be tested at any age and re-tested whenever there is a concern. Request that a child be checked if his listening, language, speech or behavior seem delayed. Ask today!

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