

The Sertoma Speech & Hearing Center

COMMUNICATION HEALTHCARE SINCE 1978



SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS IN CHILDREN

AN ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST

For learning and talking, good hearing is vital. A child with an unidentified hearing loss will miss many important learning experiences that develop their intellectual and social skills. The behaviors described in this checklist are common in children with an unknown hearing loss. This document also reviews the conditions that may cause hearing loss and the normal hearing response of infants to hearing speech or noise.

Child's hearing checklist

Behavior	My child?
1. Appears not to be paying attention, daydreams, or is withdrawn.	
2. Hears inconsistently, some days better than others, the setting seems to make a difference.	
3. Frequency requests repetition. Asks <i>What?</i> or <i>Huh?</i>	
4. Has speech, language, or voice problems.	
5. Does not put endings on words.	
6. Has difficulty pronouncing sounds such as <i>s</i> , <i>sh</i> , <i>th</i> , and <i>f</i> .	
7. Has allergies, frequent colds, or ear infections.	
8. Seems very visual and aware of movement in the room.	
9. Concentrates on people's faces when they're talking.	
10. Easily distracted.	
11. Often looks puzzled.	
12. Frequently lose place reading or is a poor reader.	
13. Does not follow spoken directions well.	
14. Appears immature. Exhibits social shortcomings.	
15. Strains to listen.	
16. Seem to favor one ear, turning it toward the speakers.	
17. Speaks too loud, too soft, or tries to dominate conversations.	
18. Gives answers unrelated to questions asked.	
19. Complains of ear pain or tugs at ears.	
20. Complains of noise or buzzing in ears.	
21. Seems to have poor balance or is uncoordinated.	
22. Complains that loud noises hurt.	
23. Has a short attention span.	

Early intervention is key. If you consistently observe some or all of these behaviors, please contact the Sertoma Speech & Hearing Center to schedule a thorough examination of your child's hearing. At-risk infants and children should take advantage of the accurate hearing tests that we offer to determine their level of hearing.

SERTOMA SPEECH & HEARING CENTER

Offices in Homewood, Palos Hills, and Romeoville, IL
For more information, please visit SERTOMACENTER.ORG.
Call 708-599-9500 to schedule an appointment.



Conditions that may cause hearing loss

The following circumstances may contribute to hearing loss:

1. Family history of hearing loss or impairment
2. Serious infections, for instance, German measles
3. Difficult birth or delivery
4. Birth weight under 3 ½ pounds
5. Baby required neonatal intensive care
6. Baby has a disorder or brain infection such as meningitis
7. Baby received blood transfusion

Infant's normal-hearing response to sound

Age	Expected, normal response
0-6 weeks	Eyes widen, blinking, stirring from sleep, startling.
6 weeks to 4 months	Eyes widen, eyes shift, blinking, quieting, basic head turn by 4 months, body may stiffen to certain sounds, may extend limbs or fan fingers or toes.
4-7 months	Turns head toward sound; appears to listen. By 5 months, locates sound more efficiently. By 6 months pinpoints sound when source is out of sight. Locating sound below ear level develops before locating sound above ear level.
7-9 months	By 8 months, turns head and shoulders toward familiar sounds even when baby cannot see what is happening.
9-13 months	Jabbers in response to human voice. May cry when it thunders; may frown when scolded. Enjoys sounds and words.
13-16 months	Baby echoes prominent or last word addressed to her. Understands about 150-200 words. Knows name.

We offer a wide range of diagnostic, therapeutic, and support services for infants, children, and adolescents with hearing and speech challenges. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's hearing or speech development or current status, please call 708-599-9500 for help.

SERTOMA SPEECH & HEARING CENTER

Offices in Homewood, Palos Hills, and Romeoville, IL
For more information, please visit SERTOMACENTER.ORG.
Call 708-599-9500 to schedule an appointment.

