



**Talk With Me**  
Early Language Services

# My Child's Hearing



## Hearing is Crucial!

Newborn Universal Hearing Screening

Babies in New Brunswick have a hearing screening at birth. Thanks to this screening, most infants with hearing loss are detected by the time they are 3 months old.

Although the screening is very precise, it does not test every pitch or sound. If you feel your baby is not responding to sounds or noises, do not hesitate to call and book a full test with an audiologist. See "Contacting an Audiologist" on the back of this page.

## Noisy Toys—Safety Tips

- Noise damage is 100% preventable
- If you have to raise your voice to be heard, the toy is too loud
- Health Canada regulates toys and bans toys that exceed 100 decibels (dBs). 100 decibels (dBs) is also the loudness of snowmobiles, rock concerts, handheld drills, and table saws!
- Toys still have potential to do harm at lower levels; make sure to limit/reduce the time your child spends playing with noisy toys
- Remember, children play with toys next to their ears!

### Here are some tips to decrease risks:

- Listen to toys in the store to avoid buying loud toys (look for volume controls and on/off switches)
- Share this information with friends and relatives who give your child toys as gifts
- Remove batteries or put tape over the speakers



Source: Speech-Language and Audiology Canada (SAC)



## What is an Audiologist?

An audiologist is a health professional who identifies and manages hearing problems.

## How Can an Audiologist Help My Preschooler?

An Audiologist can :

- See if fluid and/or infection is present
- Check for hearing difficulties
- Select and fit hearing aids and help with assistive technology
- Recommend a referral to an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, if needed

## Contacting an Audiologist

**You don't need a referral to have your child's hearing tested.** Have your Medicare card ready and contact your local audiologist:

- Upper River Valley Hospital:  
375-2586
- Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital:  
452-5931

## When Should I Have My Child's Hearing Assessed?

It is recommended that toddlers/preschoolers have their hearing assessed by an Audiologist for any of the following reasons:

- Frequent/recurring ear infections
- Wax build up
- Delayed speech (pronunciation) and language (number of words the child uses for their age)
- Child is not responding (e.g. needs directions repeated)
- Child is asking for things to be turned up
- Family history of hearing loss beginning in childhood

## Ear Infections and Speech Delay

Ear infections can cause temporary hearing difficulties. Ignoring ear infections may result in serious medical and/or hearing problems.

Children with ear infections may hear sounds as muffled or unclear. If your child isn't hearing the sounds clearly, then they may not be able to make them. Ear infections may also play a part in learning, attention and behavior difficulties.

If your child has frequent ear infections, it is recommended that they have their hearing tested by an audiologist.

### Cleaning Your Ears—The Right Way!

- Use a wash cloth to clean anything you can see at bath time—nothing more
- When cleaning ears, don't put anything smaller than your elbow in your child's ears (**do not use Q-tips!**)
- If you have concerns about too much ear wax, next time you see your Doctor ask them to give your child a quick "ear check"