



Does my child have a hearing difficulty?

Listed below are some key features which may indicate your child is experiencing some difficulties with hearing:

For younger children:

- Not being startled by or crying at loud noises
- Not turning to the source of sound
- Not waking up if there is a loud sound
- Not becoming still and appearing to listen when there is noise e.g. speech or sounds
- Not hearing noises others would notice e.g. a siren outside or a motorbike going past
- Not hearing you when you call them if you are not face-to-face
- Not developing speech and language skills as expected

For older children:

- Turning radio and TV up very loud
- Speaking very loudly
- Frequently asking you to repeat or not hearing quiet speech
- Mishearing words

Just because a child shows one or some of the above features does not mean they definitely have a hearing difficulty, the only way to know for sure will be to arrange for a hearing test as soon as possible. If you have any concerns, please talk to your child's doctor who will refer for a hearing test. It may be nothing but it is important to get hearing assessed as early as possible as early attention to your child's hearing will help your child reach his or her full potential.

Difficulties with hearing can be present at birth or can develop at a later stage. Therefore, your child may have had his/her hearing tested before and it was fine but, if you notice some of the above signs, it would be appropriate for him to be tested again.

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Date submitted: September, 2013

Date of renewal: September, 2014