

Hearing Test For Children

兒童聽力檢查



Why is it important to have my child's hearing tested?

Studies estimate that 2 to 6 out of every 1,000 children are born with congenital hearing loss. However, parents may not be aware of the hearing problem of their children simply because these children could not express well. Instead, parents may perceive their children with congenital hearing loss as having articulation problems, learning disabilities or even autistic features. The hearing symptoms of children with congenital hearing loss may not become evident until later in childhood. This may result in permanent disability in children's language development.

Some children also have hearing impairment acquired later in childhood. For example, middle ear infection has found to be the most frequently diagnosed disease in infants and young children. Seventy-five percent of children experience middle ear infection at least once by the age of 3. Almost half of them have three or more ear infections during their first three years.

Hearing ability is critical to development and learning in children. Failure to detect children with congenital or acquired hearing loss may result in lifelong deficits in speech and language acquisition, poor academic performance, personal-social maladjustments, and emotional difficulties.



How can I recognize hearing loss during early childhood?

Parents, caregivers, or grandparents are often the first one to notice hearing problems in children. If your children do not show appropriate speech and hearing landmarks for their age, it is recommended to arrange a hearing test for them.

The followings are speech and language developmental landmarks for your reference:

0 – 1 year old:

- Reacts to loud noises, locates sound sources out of sight
- Begins to respond to own name and names of familiar objects
- Plays with his / her voice, babbling, imitates sounds, speaks first word (e.g. mummy, daddy)

1 – 2 years old:

- Recognizes names of familiar objects and pictures
- Speaks simple words, begins to combine two words in phrases (e.g. "give me", "more bobbies")
- Most vowels have developed (e.g. me -/_i/, ball -/_ɔ_/_)
- Speech intelligibility is about 50%

2 – 3 years old:

- Understands simple questions and follows simple commands (e.g. "what is it?", "show me the apple")
- Speaks in short sentences (e.g. "I want banana", "give me a ball")
- Some consonants are emerging (e.g. hello -/h_/_/, water/w_/_/)
- Speech intelligibility is about 50%-75%

3 – 4 years old:

- Understands simple connected speech of familiar experiences (e.g. "Wake up now or you'll be late. Daddy is waiting for you.")
- Speaks in completed sentences and simple discourse (e.g. "The ball ran away. It's gone, I wanna buy one.")
- Some consonants are developing (e.g. garden -/g_d_/_/, peanut -/p_n_/_/)
- Speech intelligibility is about 75%

4 – 6 years old:

- Understands connected speech consistently (e.g. simple short stories)
- Speaks in complex sentences and discourse (e.g. "This is the driver. He's not working today. This is Saturday. He's in bed now.")
- Most consonants are developing (e.g. chicken -/t_f_k_n_/_/, stop -/st_p_/_/)
- Speech intelligibility is about 90% - 100%

If your child does not exhibit the average speech, language and hearing behaviors for his / her age, please seek for professional advice from our specialists.

* For referral cases, please call our Ear, Nose & Throat Centre for more information.

Service Hours (By appointment only)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	9:30am – 1:00pm 3:00pm – 6:00pm
Wednesday	9:30am – 1:00pm
Saturday	9:30am – 3:00pm
Closed on Sunday and Public Holidays	



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