

Welcome to the Ear and Hearing Center

Your child has been referred to the Ear and Hearing Center because of a newly identified hearing loss. This Center consists of many professionals who specialize in helping children with hearing loss. They will exam your child to learn about the causes and effects of your child's hearing loss. The Team will make suggestions to help your child and your family.

Your child may be seen by some or all of the people listed. The Pediatric Ear Nose and Throat Physician (ENT) physician will decide which team members your child will see. The Ear and Hearing Center scheduler will contact you to set up appointments. The scheduler (513-636-2171) will answer any questions you may have about appointments and scheduling.

- **Pediatric Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Physicians**

specialize in hearing loss. They also know about diseases of the ear. He will examine your child. You will be asked questions about the family history of hearing loss. He will make referrals to other specialists. These referrals may be to radiology and genetics. He refers to other Ear and Hearing Center Team members also. He also gives approval to the audiologist to fit your child with ear molds and hearing aids.



Your child may have a visit with any or all of these Cincinnati Children's Hospital Audiologists:

- An **Audiologist** will see your child for hearing testing. The testing will be repeated over a few visits. This is to make sure that your child's hearing is not changing over time. Then the audiologist will take an impression of your child's ear. This impression is used to make custom ear molds for hearing aids. A hearing aid evaluation will be done to help you pick the right hearing aids. Your child will return to the audiologist for regular visits. This is to check the hearing for changes and to make sure the hearing aids are working properly. The audiologist may suggest use of an FM system to help your child hear better in the classroom. Other adjustments in the home and classroom may be advised.
- A **school support Audiologist** may talk with your family regarding school and classroom issues. The audiologist will ask your permission to obtain and share test results with the right people at your child's school. This will help with educational decisions. The audiologist will also help the Ear and Hearing Center Team know of any school concerns related to hearing loss.
- An **Aural Rehabilitation Audiologist** may see your child to determine auditory (listening) skills. This is done through testing. Hearing loss greatly impacts the development of listening skills. Your child may be referred for listening therapy. You may be taught to help your child with listening challenges in daily situations. The audiologist will also examine school records. This will help coordinate the best program for your child.

- Hearing loss can greatly affect speech and language development in young children. A **Speech-Language Pathologist** will see your child to find out about their speech and language skills. This is done through child friendly testing. A hearing loss that develops later in childhood can harm future language development. It may affect learning in the classroom. It may also affect getting along with peers. Information that you bring from early intervention or school will be reviewed. Speech and language therapy or additional services may be advised.
- A **Social Worker** will see you and your child to discuss and assess the family's expectations. She will discuss with the parent and child the possible benefit from hearing aids and other devices. She may provide information on financial or social support needs.
- A **Developmental Pediatrician** will see your child for a history and medical evaluation. She may evaluate behavioral and developmental skills. These evaluations will help the Team know if other conditions are affecting the development of listening, speech, and language skills.
- An **Ophthalmologist** may see your child for an eye exam. Some types of hearing loss and vision problems can occur together. Sometimes drops are put in the eyes in an eye exam to open the pupils wider. This can cause some eye pain in bright light. You might want to bring a pair of sunglasses.
- A person from **Genetics** may see you and your child to get a family history. They may also order some blood testing. There can be a genetic cause to some types of hearing loss. The results can help the Team with management of the hearing loss.
- Your child may go to **Radiology** for a CAT scan or MRI. These tests look at how the ear and nerves of hearing are formed. These tests can help the ENT physician and the Team advise you about your child's hearing.

