



Take Notice & Take Action

Late Onset Hearing Loss is when a child develops a hearing loss sometime after birth. Your child may pass their hearing screening at birth, and then develop hearing loss later in life. It is important that your child continues to receive hearing screenings annually through their preschool years.

What are the risk factors for Late Onset Hearing Loss?

- Family history of children with hearing loss
- Head, face, or ears may be formed unusually
- Head injury that requires medical attention
- Ear infections with fluid that last more than four months
- Child spent five days or more in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- Child has a neurological disorder that is associated with hearing loss (Check with your health care provider)
- Child was exposed to infection before birth
- Child has an infection around the brain and spinal cord caused by bacteria (Bacterial Meningitis)
- Baby had jaundice that needed a special treatment

What are some signs of hearing loss in your child?

- Does not startle, move, or cry in reaction to unexpected loud noises
- Does not awaken to loud noises
- Does not turn his/her head to the source of a sound
- Pays attention to vibrating noises or noises that can be felt rather than heard
- Does not freely imitate sound
- Inconsistent response to sound
- Does not say single words such as “dada” or “mama” by 1 year of age
- Unclear speech
- Turns up sound on TV or radio
- Does not follow directions
- Does not respond when called
- Often says “huh”

The signs and symptoms of hearing loss are different for different children. If you see any of these signs, consult your child’s Doctor, Audiologist, Public Health Nurse, Child Development Center, or other Professional(s) you feel appropriate.

