

Monitoring Your Child's Hearing and Communication Development

Hearing loss can develop during early childhood and may be difficult for parents and physicians to notice in very young children. Babies who have normal hearing show certain behaviours related to listening and speaking that you can watch for. Listed below are checklists you may use to help you understand your child's hearing and communication development.

Signs of hearing loss in an infant or toddler may include:

- Does not react to loud sounds.
- Does not look or go to where sound is coming from.
- Has stopped babbling and playing with making sounds.
- Still babbles but is not progressing to using words.
- Does not react to voices, even when being held.

The following questionnaire is available to screen hearing development in children from 6 months to 2 years of age:

<https://www.medel.com/about-hearing/hearing-test/little-ears-auditory-questionnaire>

The following checklists are available to monitor communication development:

<https://pathways.org/all-ages/checklists/>

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/hearing-loss-children>

If you notice that your child is not displaying all of the listed skills or if you have concerns regarding your child's hearing at any age, it is recommended that you contact the community audiologist of your choice. It is recommended that you consult an audiologist that is used to seeing very young children. You can locate an Ontario-registered Audiologist at the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO) website <http://publicregister.caslpo.com/>. You can also speak to your child's pediatrician or health care provider.

If you have concerns about how your child's speech and/or language skills are developing, please contact the Preschool Speech & Language Program at Children's Centre Thunder Bay at 1-807-346-6272 to make a referral.