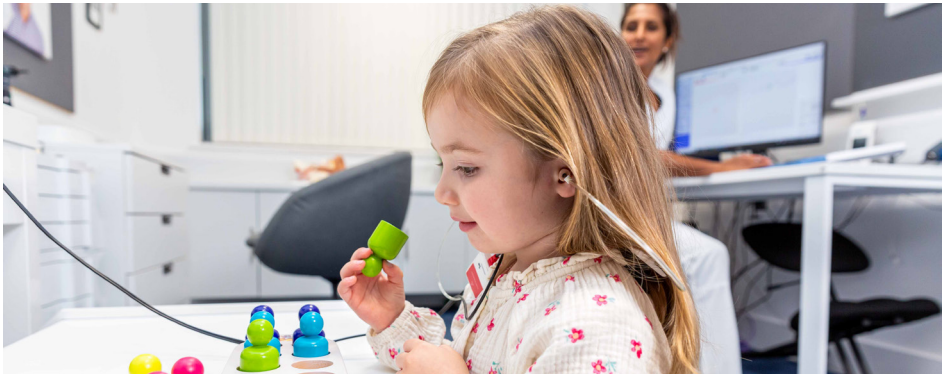


## HEARING LOSS IN CHILDREN

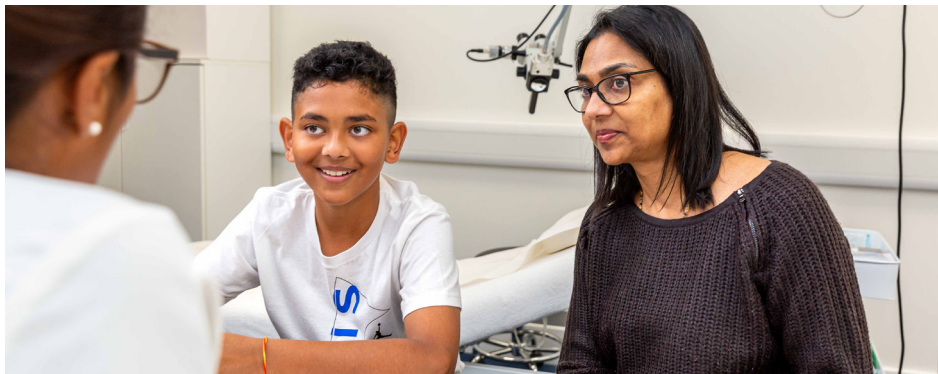
The key signs and strategies to help



Unidentified hearing loss can have a major impact on the development of children's speech, language, social skills and relationships, so it's important to be aware of the key signs of hearing loss and to take relevant action if you think your child is struggling to hear properly. While hearing loss in children is often temporary and could be caused by glue ear, an ear infection or earwax build up, early diagnosis and treatment is crucial to limit any long-term negative impact on a child's development and to make sure that there are no other serious underlying conditions.

Here are some of the most important signs and behaviours to look out for. If you are concerned about any of these signs, speak to your GP straight away to arrange a hearing test for your child.

- Not responding when their name is called
- Delayed speech and language
- Limited or unclear speech
- Talking loudly
- Poor concentration or inattentiveness
- Poorer performance than expected at school
- Having difficulty following instructions
- Asking for repetition
- Listening to the television or personal devices at high volume
- Struggling to hear in noisy environments
- Unable to identify where sounds are coming from



In the meantime, there are several actions you can take to limit the impact of any hearing loss and help your child hear as well as possible:

- Encourage your child to tell people when they can't hear what is being said and to ask for repetition
- Minimise background noise and find quiet areas for your child to study in
- Avoid excessively noisy environments wherever possible
- Make teachers aware of your child's hearing loss, so that they can preferentially seat them near the front of a class, enabling them to hear better
- Ensure that the learning environment is well lit to enable lip-reading and thereby improve communication for the child in the classroom
- Ask teachers to encourage the child to participate in class and also encourage them to participate in conversations, activities and games at home
- Use visual aids when possible. Ask teachers to do the same in school
- Ask teachers to assign your child a 'hearing buddy' – a friend in class who can repeat instructions when necessary or alert them to important information
- Use technology to help them hear better, for example a FM (Frequency Modulation) system that will allow them to hear more clearly in noisy environments

We hope you have found this information useful.  
You can find information on hearing tests for children on the NHS at  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hearing-tests-children/>

**If you would like to discuss any concerns regarding your child's hearing, please call us on 01732 525912 or email us at [info@kenthearing.com](mailto:info@kenthearing.com)**

