Young children can experience hearing loss from exposure to loud noise. For children learning spoken language, this can affect their communication, social, and learning skills.

**Toys:** Many popular toys on the market reach dangerously loud volumes, according to independent testing. This is a problem for young children because they tend to hold toys close to their heads. Babies may not yet have the physical ability to move a too-loud toy on their own—or the cognitive skills to register in their brain that it’s too loud.

**What to Do** Give toys a listen. Remove the batteries or put tape over the speakers of loud toys to dampen the sound. Better yet, don’t purchase loud toys—or put them away.

**Nursery Products:** Sound and white-noise machines can also reach excessive volumes. This is a problem because young children may be listening for 8 hours at a time.

**What to Do** Keep the volume down, and place sound machines far away from the crib or bed.

**Events:** Family-friendly festivals and concerts, indoor play spaces and trampoline parks, and sporting events are just some of the places young children visit that can get excessively loud.

**What to Do** Bring along a set of well-fitting earmuffs for young children. There are even ones sized appropriately for infants.

Learn more at [www.asha.org/public](http://www.asha.org/public).