

WORLD HEARING DAY

Hearing Protection Across the Lifespan: Infants and Toddlers

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.

