Hearing Protection: Babies and Young Children

Babies and young children who weren’t born with hearing problems can still acquire them after birth. Be vigilant when it comes to hearing protection!

**Noise**: Protect little ears from everyday noise hazards such as noisy toys, loud nursery products (e.g., sound machines), popular technology devices (e.g., tablets—especially when used with headphones), and noisy leisure activities (such as festivals, wedding receptions, concerts, and sporting events).

- **TIPS**: Keep the volume down on everyday products and tech devices, avoid purchasing toys and other products that sound too loud, and use earmuffs in noisy settings. They make baby-sized earmuffs in many styles and colors.

**Ear Infections**: Although most hearing problems from ear infections are temporary, in rare cases frequent infections can cause permanent hearing loss. And even temporary hearing loss due to ear infections—when it occurs repeatedly—can be problematic to a child’s speech and language development if it reduces their exposure to language input.

- **SEEK TREATMENT**: Ear infections require immediate attention from a pediatrician or otolaryngologist (ear doctor). If a child has frequent infections and/or chronic fluid in the middle ear, two other specialists should be consulted: a certified audiologist and a certified speech-language pathologist.

**Other Illnesses, Injury, and Medications**: A variety of other illnesses (e.g., meningitis, chicken pox, and flu), head injuries, and certain medications can also cause hearing loss in children.

- **REDUCE RISKS**: Make sure vaccines are up to date—and be attuned to the signs of hearing loss if your child experiences a head injury or infectious illness.

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