

# HEARING LOSS IN CHILDREN

Information handouts curated by our top experts

## WHAT IS HEARING LOSS?

- Sounds in the environment including speech sounds travel as a sound wave into our ears. Thus, enabling us to hear.
- These sounds are then transferred to our brain, helping us to understand what we heard.
- A breakdown in this hearing chain can lead to a hearing loss.
- We all learn to communicate by hearing and imitating sounds in the environment.

## WHAT ARE THE CAUSES?

- Genetic causes
- Ear infections/Injury/ Neurological disorders
- Congenital hearing loss since birth
- Acquired hearing loss due to infections or toxic medications



## WHAT ARE THE RED FLAGS?

- Poor response to name call.
- Delayed communication development.
- Uses signs or gestures to communicate.
- Listens to TV/ mobile at loud volume.
- Complaints of ear ache/ discharge from the ear/ headache.
- Poor academic performance.
- Unable to follow instructions at home and school.



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## WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF HEARING LOSS?

- Conductive hearing loss: Ear infections or Outer ear malformations or wax build up.
- Sensorineural hearing loss: Permanent hearing loss due to damaged inner ear cells.
- Mixed hearing loss: Combination of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss.

## WHAT IS THE SEVERITY OF HEARING LOSS?

- Mild hearing loss: Child may have difficulty hearing soft speech.
- Moderate hearing loss: Child may have difficulty following normal conversations.
- Severe hearing loss: Child may not be able to hear loud environmental sounds.
- Profound hearing loss: Child may not be able to hear any environmental sounds without an amplification device.



## HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

- A certified Audiologist is the go-to person for issues with hearing.
- A detailed audiological testing comprising of an audiogram/ electrophysiological testing and middle ear testing will be carried out.
- Finally, based on all the test results, the audiologist will arrive at a diagnosis.



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## HOW IS IT TREATED?

- Depending on the type and severity of hearing loss, the Audiologist will recommend a treatment plan.
- For young children, an amplification device/ hearing aid or a cochlear implant may be required.
- The audiologist will guide you through the selection of the device, fitting, care and maintenance of the device.
- In addition, Speech-Language Therapy is a must for every child fitted with a hearing device.





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