

Listening Troubles and Little Kids

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Little kids with listening problems may:

not talk much

use actions or point more

take longer to tell things

need people to call out loud to get their attention

like to do things their own way

sit close to music or TV

be hard to understand

Kids should see a health practitioner about their ears if they are doing lots of these things.

What can happen when kids can't hear well?

Hard to learn language

Language is learned by listening. When they're not hearing the sounds, it's harder for kids to learn to talk.

Need more attention

Kids may want lots of attention. Sometimes families get tired and frustrated. Carers need extra help when kids have hearing loss.

Don't like loud noises

Loud noises can hurt kids' ears if they have ear problems.

- ✓ Kids may put their hands over their ears
- ✓ Sometimes cry when they hear loud noises
- ✓ They may want to get away from loud noise

Want to know what will happen

Kids like to know what is going to happen. When they know what to expect they get less upset by change.

Snatching - not sharing

Little kids who can't hear have trouble learning how to share. It takes more time to learn to share.



What can families do to help kids with listening problems?

Breastfeed

Breastfeeding helps stop infection



Wash

Wash hands and faces to stop germs from spreading.



No Smoke

Keep kids away from smoke to help stop ear infection



Health

Get good help from health services



Show

- ✓ Kids watch more when their ears don't work well
- ✓ Show and tell them things
- ✓ Use pointing, actions and sign language
- ✓ Do more helping, less 'growing'



Less Noise

Make sure it's not noisy when you talk

Talk More

Kids hear you better when:

- ✓ It is quiet
- ✓ You are talking just with them
- ✓ They are not distracted by other things
- ✓ You repeat things they don't understand
- ✓ You talk about things they are interested in

When talking

- ✓ Make sure kids are looking at you
- ✓ Call out or make baby sounds to get their attention
- ✓ Talk loud enough so they can hear

Listening problems come from ear infections

