








# Listening Troubles and Little Kids



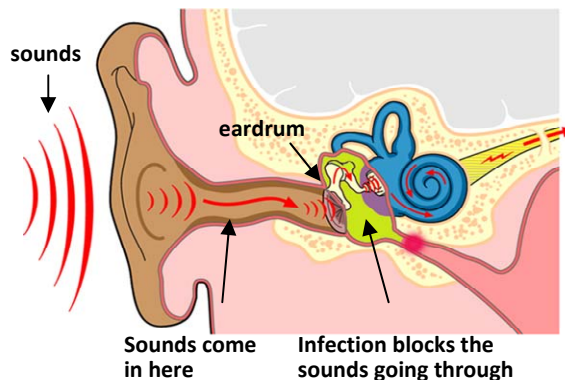
By Damien Howard, Lyn Fasoli and Alison Wunungmarra

## Little kids with listening problems may:

-  Not listen to people
-  Be really demanding
-  Want to be by themselves
-  Be hard to understand when they talk
-  Get upset when things change
-  Be really shy with new people
-  Have sore ears

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

## Listening problems come from ear infections



## 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.

### Snatching - not sharing

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

### 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.

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## What can families do to help kids with listening problems?

### Breastfeed



Breastfeeding helps stop infection

### No Smoke



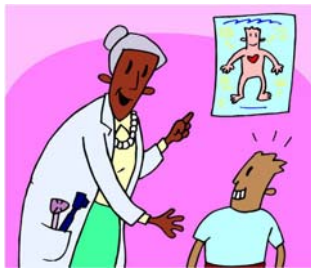
Keep away from smoke to help stop ear infection

### Wash



Wash hands and faces to stop germs from spreading.

### 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 'growling'

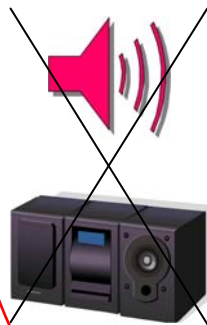
### When talking

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



### 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



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For more information on issues associated with conductive hearing loss go to: [www.eartroubles.com](http://www.eartroubles.com)