



My Child Has a Hearing Loss. What's Next?



**NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S**

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.SM

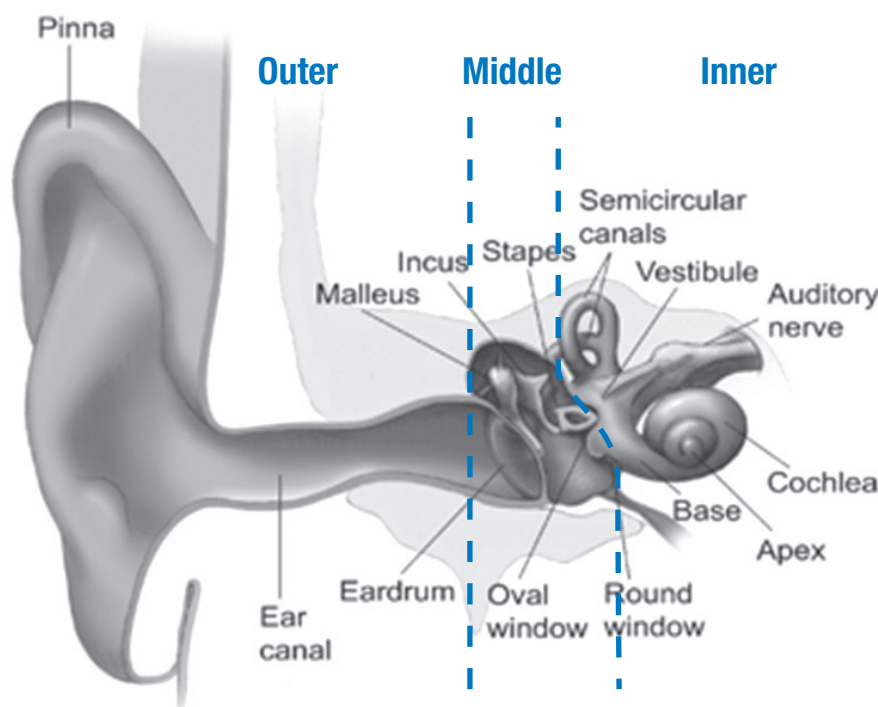


What is Hearing Loss?

Hearing loss is when your child may not be able to hear sounds at some or all pitches. Children can be born with hearing loss or can develop a hearing loss after birth. Hearing loss can be temporary or permanent. It can be in one or both ears.

What Type of Hearing Loss Does my Child Have?

- **Conductive** hearing loss is caused by a problem in the outer or middle ear. The most common causes are ear infections or a blockage of earwax.
- **Sensorineural** hearing loss is caused by a problem in the inner ear or the hearing nerve. Causes can include:
 - inherited hearing loss
 - hearing loss from too much loud noise
 - genetic syndromes
 - certain diseases during pregnancy
 - problems, like low birth weight or severe jaundice at birth
 - infections, like meningitis
 - head injuries
 - problems with the way ears are formed
- **Mixed** hearing loss is caused by problems in both the inner and outer/middle ear. For example, a sensorineural hearing loss can be made worse by an ear infection.
- **Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder** is a hearing disorder in which sound enters the inner ear normally but there are problems when the signals move from the inner ear to the brain.
- **Neural/Retrocochlear Hearing Loss** is a type of hearing loss in which the auditory signal is disturbed along the auditory nerve pathway in the brainstem.

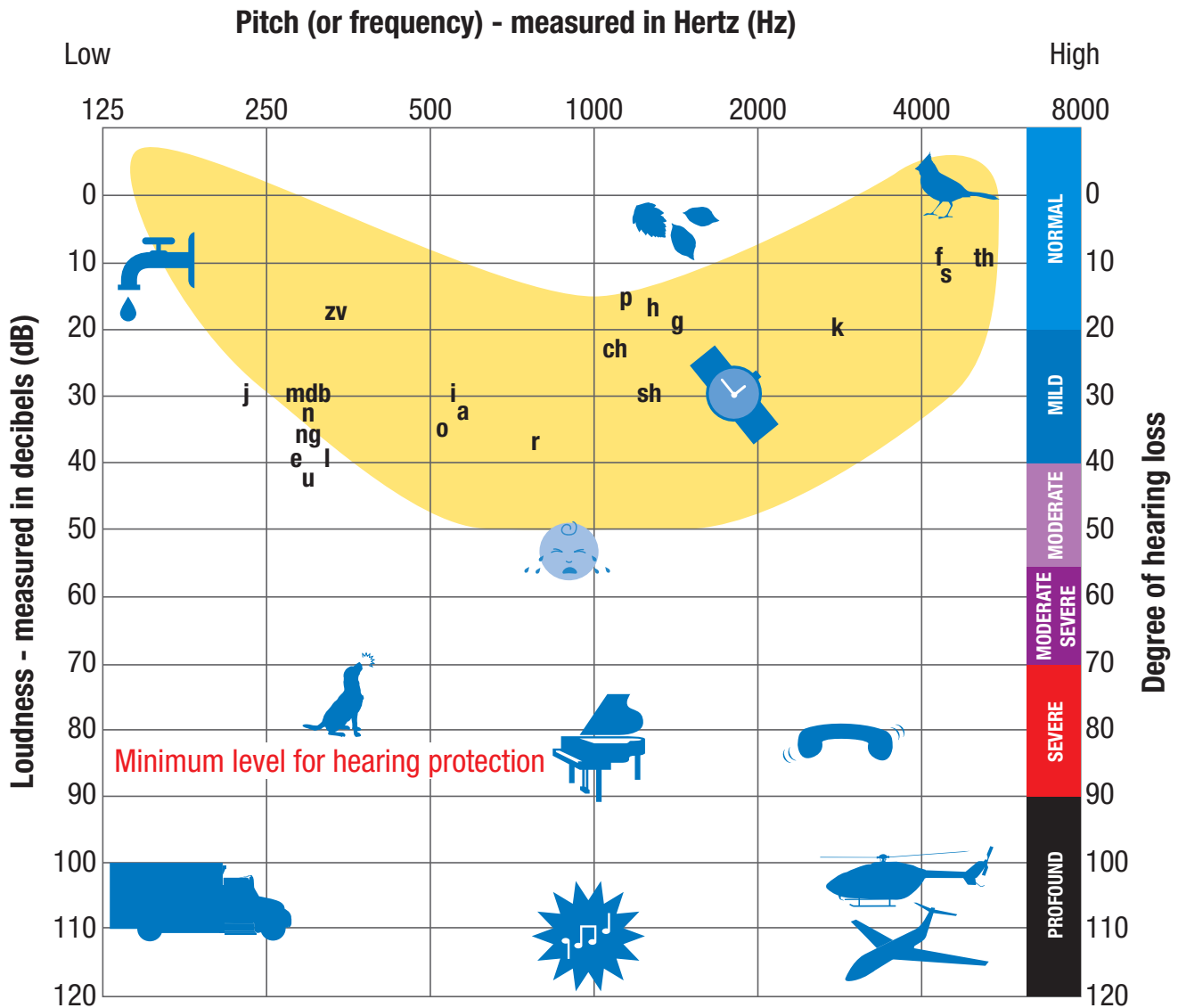


Source: NIDCD, NIH Medical Arts. Reprinted with permission.

How Much Hearing Loss Does my Child Have?

- **Mild hearing loss:** Your child will have trouble listening when it's noisy. He or she may miss a lot of consonant sounds. For example, he may not be able to hear 'f', 's', or 'th' sounds.
- **Moderate hearing loss:** Your child will only be able to understand speech if he or she can see the speaker's face clearly. Your child will have problems hearing in a group or at school.
- **Moderately-severe to severe hearing loss:** Your child may miss most or all speech, even if he or she can see the speaker's face. He may not hear voices unless the speech is very loud. Your child will have difficulty hearing in all listening situations.
- **Profound hearing loss:** Your child may not be able to hear even very loud sounds. He or she may respond mostly to sight and vibrations.

When you find out that your child has a hearing loss, it is common to feel many different emotions. Your child's pediatric audiologist and the staff at Nationwide Children's Hospital can help. We will work together to learn the cause of the hearing loss and what type of treatment is needed.



What's Next?

Hearing Testing

- A hearing test has been completed, but more testing may be necessary to confirm or obtain additional information. Follow-up hearing testing in children is common.

- ☐ Return for repeat testing on _____ at:
- ☐ Main Campus
 - ☐ Medical Office Building at Dublin *Close To Home*SM
 - ☐ Marysville *Close To Home*SM
 - ☐ Westerville *Close To Home*SM
 - ☐ Westerville Surgery Center
 - ☐ Other _____

- Call (614) 722-6200 to reschedule if needed.

- ☐ Type of testing requested (Circle below):

- ABR – unsedated
- ABR – sedated
- Audiology hearing evaluation testing
- Audiology hearing evaluation testing – team test

- ☐ Another hearing test is not needed at this time. Your pediatric audiologist will tell you when a follow-up test is needed.

Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor (ENT)

- If hearing loss is diagnosed, your child will need to see an ear, nose and throat (ENT) doctor. The ENT doctor will discuss possible causes of the hearing loss.
- You will have the chance to meet with the ENT doctor and other members of the hearing team to discuss these treatment options for your child. In addition to the physician, you may also see a nurse practitioner or social worker who are members of our hearing team. They can help coordinate your services and provide additional help if needed.
- If hearing aids are an option for your child, medical clearance from an ENT is needed prior to obtaining hearing aids. This can be done during your ENT appointment. Additional insurance questions and paperwork will also be completed during this time, if necessary.

- ☐ You will be called to schedule this ENT appointment.

- ☐ Your ENT appointment is scheduled for the following:

- ☐ Date/Time _____ at:
- ☐ Main Campus
 - ☐ Medical Office Building at Dublin *Close To Home*SM
 - ☐ Westerville Surgery Center
 - ☐ Other _____

- Call (614) 722-6536 to reschedule if needed.



Hearing Aid Evaluation

- During this appointment, hearing aid options will be discussed and your child's ear(s) will be measured. This is a good time to ask any questions you may have about the hearing devices.

☐ Your Hearing Aid Evaluation appointment is scheduled for the following:

- Date/Time _____ at:
 - ☐ Main Campus
 - ☐ Medical Office Building at Dublin *Close To Home*SM
 - ☐ Westerville *Close To Home*SM
 - ☐ Westerville Surgery Center
 - ☐ Other _____

- Call (614) 722-6200 to schedule/reschedule if needed.

*** Hearing aids will NOT be given at this appointment. See "Hearing Aid Fitting" section.**

.....

Hearing Aid Fitting

- Your child's hearing aid(s) will be given during this appointment. Use and care of the hearing aid(s) will be discussed. You will be given time to practice putting the hearing aid(s) in and taking them out. Your audiologist will discuss when the hearing aid(s) should and should not be worn.
- After the Hearing Aid Fitting appointment, you will be asked to schedule regular hearing aid checks for your child. Hearing aid checks are necessary to monitor your child's hearing and to ensure that the hearing aids are working appropriately.

☐ Your Hearing Aid Fit appointment is scheduled for the following

- Date/Time: _____ at:
 - ☐ Main Campus
 - ☐ Medical Office Building at Dublin *Close To Home*SM
 - ☐ Westerville *Close To Home*SM
 - ☐ Westerville Surgery Center
 - ☐ Other _____

- Call (614) 722-3951 (option 3) if you need to reschedule your child's appointment.

☐ You will be contacted to schedule the Hearing Aid Fitting appointment once we receive approval from your insurance company.

.....

Appointment Locations:

Main Campus

Outpatient Care Center, Suite 2A
555 South 18th St.
Columbus, OH 43205
Phone: (614) 722-3150

Medical Office Building at Dublin

*Close To Home*SM

5665 Venture Dr.
Dublin, OH 43017
Phone: (614) 355-8480

Westerville Surgery Center

455 Executive Campus Dr.
Westerville, OH 43082
Phone: (614) 355-6100

Westerville *Close To Home*SM

433 N. Cleveland Ave. Suite 2-D
Westerville, OH 43082
Phone: (614) 355-8300

Marysville *Close To Home*SM

100 Colemans Crossing Blvd.
Marysville, OH 43040
Phone: (937) 578-7600



Nationwide Children's Hospital
700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696
NationwideChildrens.org



NATIONWIDE
CHILDREN'S

When your child needs a hospital, everything matters.SM