If you have a child with a hearing loss, it is important to remember...

First, you are not alone. Two out of every 1,000 children have permanent hearing loss in one ear. Most importantly, caring help is available. So, call today.

**Minnesota Children & Youth with Special Health Needs**

www.health.state.mn.us/mcyshn

651-201-3650 or 1-800-728-5420

**Follow Along Program**

Call the Minnesota Children & Youth with Special Health Needs to find a program in your area.

651-201-3650 or 1-800-728-5420

**Hands and Voices**

www.mnhandsandvoices.org

866-346-4543

**Help Me Grow**

www.MNParentsKnow.info

1-866-693-GROW (4769)

You probably have many questions about unilateral hearing loss and its affect on your child.

Can an amplification device help my child? Ask your audiologist about amplification and what it could do for your child. The only way to know if a hearing aid is right for your child is to try one and watch for improved listening. Ask your audiologist for information about purchasing a hearing aid or how to get a loaner aid.

Parents of children with unilateral hearing loss that have tried hearing aids had this to say:

- He doesn't talk so loud when wearing his aid.
- He was missing one-half of everything before he got his aid.
- She hears sounds she never heard before.
- Doesn't interrupt people in group situations now.
- It is a very positive thing.

Hearing Loss in One Ear

What you should do
My child hears perfectly fine in one ear. Should I be concerned?

Yes...

Your child has been diagnosed with "unilateral hearing loss," which is a loss of hearing in one ear.

Even though some people believe children with only one good hearing ear will be fine, they are not fine.

Children with unilateral hearing loss are ten times more likely to develop learning difficulties when compared to children with two normal hearing ears.

Also, one of four children with hearing loss in one ear may lose some or all of their hearing in their good ear over time.

You can take steps to assure your child achieves his or her greatest potential!

Why

For their safety
Hearing in two ears helps us know where sound is coming from.

For their learning
Many children with unilateral hearing loss can have difficulties learning language.

Studies have shown some children with untreated unilateral hearing loss are more at risk for speech, language, reading and academic performance problems.

For their social behavior
Children with hearing loss miss parts of what is said – at a distance, in noisy places, or when the good ear is not facing the speaker.

They also may find it hard to hear directions or understand someone who is speaking quietly. This may lead to frustration and difficult behavior.

What

Are some things you can do...

Monitor
Make sure your child's learning is on target.
A language check-up twice a year is all it takes. To learn more, call your local Follow Along Program, or other resources, listed on the back.

Protect
Protect your child's hearing.
Your child's hearing can be permanently harmed by loud noises.

Guard the hearing in the good hearing ear.

Treat
If you think your child may have an ear infection, get medical help quickly! Also:

• Use up all medicine as prescribed
• Follow up with your child's doctor as recommended.

Get Help
Get your child's hearing checked by an audiologist every three to six months.

Remember, one fourth of children with hearing loss in one ear will develop it in the other ear.

Consider Available Hearing Options

Depending on your child's hearing loss, a hearing aid or FM system may help. If your child is one of the 25 percent who develop hearing loss in both ears, using a hearing aid at an early age can make a world of difference in stimulating brain development and language. Rely on your audiologist to help find the best solution for your child.
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