

Injury Prevention

The Year of
Safety



"Safety is
Everyone's
Responsibility"

Hearing Information You Should Know

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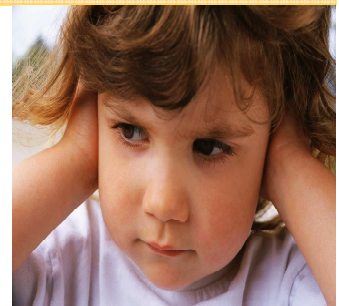
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Newsletter by
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Hearing Loss in Children

For a child, the ability to hear is the foundation for speaking, learning, playing, and social skills. When something is wrong with hearing, fast response on your part can make all the difference for improving your child's prospects for successful treatment.

Children learn to communicate by imitating the sounds they hear. Young children with hearing loss that goes undetected and untreated can miss much of the speech and language that's going on around them. It can delay their speech, language, and social development. And put them at higher risk for learning problems.



It's estimated that two in every 100 children under 18 have some amount of hearing loss. With early diagnosis and treatment, most children can be helped. Early fitting of [hearing aids](#) and an early start with therapy can pave the way for successful development of speech and language.

<http://www.stronghealth.com/services/Audiology/conditions/pedshearingloss.cfm> (*Information on this article from* : University of Rochester Medical Center)

Otitis Media and other infections

Otitis media, or middle ear infection, is the most common infectious cause of temporary hearing loss in the United States. Repeated or untreated infections may lead to permanent impairment.

Affecting 70 percent of all infants and young children and accounting for more than 24 million visits to physicians each year, treatment for just otitis media, alone, costs more than \$1 billion annually. Bacterial meningitis is another cause of hearing loss. In addition, a long list of other infections can cause hearing loss, particularly in babies born infected. Cytomegalovirus, syphilis and herpes simplex are among the more common ones. German measles (rubella) is rare today, but when a woman contracts it during pregnancy, it frequently causes profound hearing loss in the baby. Even measles and mumps can lead to partial or total deafness.

Genetics

Genetic factors might play a major role in hearing loss in children. The most common inherited condition causing conductive hearing loss is *otosclerosis*, a degenerative disease affecting about 1 percent of the population that damages the small bones in the middle ear. It typically occurs in both ears. Most children with Down's syndrome have some hearing impairment due to chronic otitis media, middle ear abnormalities or damage to the inner ear.

Information on this article from : <http://www.healthatoz.com/healthatoz/Atoz/common/standard/transform.jsp?requestURI=/healthatoz/Atoz/dc/caz/enth/deaf/hlprevent.jsp>

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 1st—Labor Day
- September is :
National Baby Safety Month
National Food Safety Month



EARLY LEARNING
COALITION
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Vision Information & Safety



Children's Eye Health and Safety

More than 12 million children suffer from visual impairment.

Vision problems affect one in twenty preschoolers and one in four school-aged children.

Vision problems can begin at an early age; therefore it is important that children receive proper eye care. Untreated problems can worsen and lead to permanent vision loss and delayed development.

Because it is possible for your child to have a serious vision problem without being aware of it, infants should be screened for common eye problems during their regular pediatric appointments. Vision testing should be conducted for all children starting at age 3 for:

- Strabismus (crossed eyes)
- Amblyopia (lazy eye)
- Ptosis (drooping of the upper eyelid)
- Color deficiency (color blindness)
- Refractive errors (nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism)

Many toys present a hidden danger to your child's eyes. Avoid toys with sharp, protruding parts like paint or pellet guns, or rifles and darts. Make sure toys and gifts are appropriate for your child's age and maturity level.

Division of Blind Services: Available to service Glades, Hendry, Lee, Collier Counties. Phone # 1-800-219-0180 or 239-278-7130.

An **Ophthalmologist** — a medical doctor who provides the full spectrum of eye and vision care. From eyeglasses and contact lenses to medication and surgery, your Eye M.D. will help you keep your sight for life.



Optometrists should not be confused with ophthalmologists or dispensing **Opticians**. Ophthalmologists are Physicians who perform surgery, as well as diagnose and treat eye diseases and injuries. Like Optometrists, they also examine eyes and prescribe eyeglasses and contact lenses.

FLORIDA KID CARE—Health Insurance for children

Florida KidCare is the state's children's health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19. It includes four different parts, or programs: MediKids, Healthy Kids, Children's Medical Services and Medicaid. When you apply for the insurance, Florida KidCare will check which program your child may be eligible for based on age and family income.

There are several ways to apply for Florida KidCare:

- If you applied for Florida KidCare before, call **1-888-540-5437** to update your information by telephone, or
 - [Apply online](http://www.floridakidcare.org), (www.floridakidcare.org) or
 - [Print an Application and Instructions](#) you can also fax it back to 1-866-867-0054
- Florida KidCare also offers several ways for you to [pay your monthly premium](#)

