



SEEING AN EAR, NOSE & THROAT (ENT) DOCTOR WHEN YOUR CHILD NEEDS HEARING AIDS

- 1) Be sure to make your child's appointment with an ENT who sees large numbers of children close to your child's age. Ask your child's audiologist for suggestions.
- 2) When you schedule the ENT appointment, let the person who answers the phone know that your child has a hearing loss. If you have been told that your child needs hearing aids, tell that person that your child needs "medical clearance" for the hearing aids.
- 3) Let the ENT know if anyone in your child's family has a hearing loss.

The ENT doctor may refer your child to another specialist (a geneticist). 60% of permanent hearing loss is genetic. Genetic testing helps to find the cause of the hearing loss or any other hidden problems. Genetic testing can be important even if you do not know of any family members who have a hearing loss.

Some types of hearing loss are caused by problems that you may not see yet. The ENT doctor or geneticist can send your child for tests that check for hidden problems. The doctor can explain why any of these following tests are needed:

1. **CT Scan/ Temporal-bone scan:** Takes a picture inside the ear (cochlea, vestibular system) to find any physical problem that can help explain the hearing loss.
2. **Ophthalmology (Eye Exam):** Some children with hearing loss can also have problems with eyesight.
3. **Lab testing (blood and urine testing):** Checks for problems in other parts of the body, such as the kidneys.
4. **Electrocardiogram (EKG):** Checks your child's heart.