

## Early detection is important

Although newborn hearing screenings can detect hearing loss at birth, hearing loss can occur at any age.

Undiagnosed hearing and ear health problems can result in delays in communication, poor speech and language development, can have negative impacts on social relationships and in extreme cases, cause long-term damage to the ear and its functions.

This is why regular hearing checks are highly recommended for children.



## Request an appointment

If you have any concerns about your child's hearing, make an appointment today.

Telethon Speech & Hearing (TSH) provides a range of diagnostic, therapeutic and educational services for children with hearing, speech and language needs.

**TSH is a Registered NDIS Provider and does not pay commission to its audiologists.**

**We can assess children of all ages without a referral.**

**Phone 9387 9888 or book online at [www.tsh.org.au](http://www.tsh.org.au).**

## Our locations

### Wembley (Head Office)

Bendat Parent & Community Centre  
36 Dodd Street Wembley WA 6014

### Cockburn

Cockburn Integrated Health & Community Facility  
Suite 14/11 Wentworth Parade Success WA 6164

**Net proceeds from this service support children with hearing, speech and language impairments.**

*All information is correct at time of print.*



Telethon Speech & Hearing

Telethon Speech & Hearing Ltd  
PO Box 186 Wembley WA 6913

T +61 8 9387 9888 F +61 8 9387 9889

E [speech@tsh.org.au](mailto:speech@tsh.org.au) | [www.tsh.org.au](http://www.tsh.org.au)

@telethonspeechhearing

ABN 73 885 107 614 ACN 607129180 Registered Charity No. 17993



Telethon Speech & Hearing

# Do you have concerns with your child's hearing?



## Early diagnosis

Nearly **1 in 500** children will have permanent hearing loss by the time they reach school age.

By the time they have finished school, the average child will have endured three months of middle ear infections and associated hearing loss.

Don't let your child suffer as a result of undiagnosed hearing or ear health problems.

If you have a concern it is important to get quick access to further testing, diagnosis and early intervention services.

A simple check could make all the difference for you and your child.

## Hearing & communication milestones

While children develop their hearing and communication skills at differing times, there are numerous milestones that can provide an approximate guide.

### For children 0-6 months

- Does your baby startle or wake up in response to loud sounds? YES/NO
- Does your baby move their gaze to follow sounds? YES/NO
- Do you notice any change in their cry when they want different things? Such as when they are tired versus when they want a feed? YES/NO

### For children 6-12 months

- Does your baby turn their head to loud sounds? YES/NO
- Does your baby appear to enjoy music and singing? YES/NO
- Does your baby respond to you calling their name? YES/NO

### For children 1 to 2 years of age

- Does your child babble or copy speech sounds that you make? YES/NO
- Can your child point to familiar items upon request? YES/NO
- Does your child look around in response to loud sounds? YES/NO
- Does your child look around when called across the room? YES/NO

### For children 2 to 3 years of age

- Does your child copy words that you say? YES/NO
- Can your child label familiar items upon request? YES/NO
- Is your child's speech understood by unfamiliar people at least 50% of the time? YES/NO
- Does your child respond to simple instructions when asked? YES/NO
- Does your child look around in response to loud sounds? YES/NO
- Does your child come when called from across the room? YES/NO

### For children 3 years and above

- Is your child speaking in sentences, using connector words such as 'and'? YES/NO
- Does your child enjoy telling stories about their activities? YES/NO
- Does your child role play conversation? YES/NO
- Is your child's speech understood by unfamiliar people most of the time? YES/NO
- Does your child enjoy reading books? YES/NO
- Can your child watch television without turning the volume up too loud? YES/NO
- Does your child often hear questions clearly the first time you ask, without you having to repeat them? YES/NO

*The above questions are designed to be used as a guide only. If you answered 'no' to any of the questions about your child, please contact Telethon Speech & Hearing to book a full hearing test with an audiologist.*



## Ear infections

Otitis Media ('glue ear') is the medical name for a middle ear infection. It is one of the most common childhood illnesses. Some children may experience frequent episodes of Otitis Media. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are at much higher risk of Otitis Media and associated hearing loss.

Signs and symptoms:

- Cold symptoms (fever, cough, runny nose, fatigue/grumpy)
- Sore ears or pulling ears
- Smelly ears
- Runny ears/pus
- Poor speech
- Misunderstanding instructions
- Poor school performance

A child may also have an ear infection without any symptoms at all.

References:  
Telethon Speech & Hearing (2014). *Chevron Ear Health Program Education Resource Pack*. Perth, Western Australia