

Discharging ear should be taken seriously. It may denote rupture of the eardrum, which if not treated properly at the right time can lead to chronic ear infection and later deafness.

the ear, decreased hearing and wetness in the ear.

- Educate the child not to put anything into the ear such as pencil, eraser pieces, hair-pin etc. Ear pain should not be ignored as it can lead to serious problems.

**8. When should I take the child to the doctor for an ear problem?**

A. You should immediately consult your doctor, paediatrician or ENT specialist if the child complains of pain in the ear, hearing loss; you observe discharge from his/her ear, improper speech development and when child does not understand what you say properly. Such a child needs thorough examination and should be taken to a hospital where tests for hearing assessment can be done.

**9. How can I protect my child against ear injury?**

- A. You can prevent some ear injuries by encouraging kids to:
- Never stick anything in their ears.
  - Stay away from uncomfortable, loud sounds.
  - Turn down the volume when listening to music, especially while wearing headphones.
  - Never slap the child especially over the ear.



Be smart,  
Give your child a  
**SOUND** start!!

**Society for Sound Hearing**  
[www.soundhearing2030.org](http://www.soundhearing2030.org)



Ear care for  
children:  
Frequently asked  
questions (FAQs)



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## FAQs ABOUT EAR CARE FOR CHILDREN

### 1. When should one suspect hearing impairment in a child?

A. Suspect hearing impairment in your child if s/he does not perform the activities at the end of the month:

#### 0-3 months-

- Respond to very loud sounds
- Blink in response to a bang
- Wake up when there is a sudden noise near her/him



#### 3-6 months-

- Turn towards the sound of mother's voice
- Show any interest in any new sounds
- Try to localize the sound source by moving her/his head or eyes



#### 6-12 months-

- Understands small words like 'come', 'bye'..
- Show interest in squeaky toys
- Make any babbling sound



#### 12-15 months-

- Respond to her/his own name
- Start speaking small words like 'Mama', 'Baba', 'Dada'
- Try to imitate word which s/he hears



### 2. My child can't hear properly, What should I do?

A. The hearing loss can be due to many causes. You must take the child to the ENT doctor so that thorough ear check-up and hearing assessment can be done. The doctor will be able to guide you regarding the need for treatment.

### 3. How long can I wait before getting the hearing of my child checked?

A. In case your child has deafness, s/he must be diagnosed and treatment started by the age of 6 months. The earlier that is done, the better it is for the child, so that s/he can learn to understand, speak and study, just as other children of her/his age.

### 4. What is the minimum age when hearing aid should be given to children?

A. If your child has hearing loss and has been advised to use hearing aids, you must get the child the hearing aid at the earliest and make sure that s/he uses it. No child is too small to use a hearing aid and even a 6 month old child can start using one.

### 5. Can my hard of hearing child go to school and learn?

A. If hearing impairment is the only problem your child has, and you have started the



treatment as per guidance of the doctor, the child can be rehabilitated and can go to school and get educated just like other children in the community. However, this will require intensive training and therapy of the child and serious commitment and participation from the parents.

### 6. Why does my child get pain in the ear?

A. The pain in the ear can be caused by problems such as impacted wax in the ear, acute infection in the ear canal, acute infection of the ear drum or because of fluid in the middle ear. In order to identify the problem, the child should be taken for an ear check-up. Ear pain should not be ignored as it can lead to serious problems.

### 7. How can I prevent ear infections in my child?

A. Most of the ear infections can be prevented by taking good care of your children's ears. Some of the important things to remember are-

- Not to let dirty water enter the ear.
- Not to slap the child on the ear as it can lead to damage to the ear drum.
- Early diagnosis of ear infections by staying vigilant for problems like pain in