



Finding a Pediatric Audiologist

A pediatric audiologist is a professional who has received specialized training to learn skills specific to working with young children with hearing loss, has equipment designed specifically for the unique testing needs of children, and has information important for management of childhood hearing loss. To provide appropriate treatment, audiologists need accurate test results, and you need comprehensive information to make decisions about your child's hearing needs.

Children with hearing loss have different needs than adults. Children are developing speech and language, they rely on their parents and other caregivers to meet their hearing needs, and as they grow, their needs change. You will need to learn new information and new skills to help your child hear and communicate. Pediatric audiologists know how to help parents and their children with hearing loss who are learning to listen and talk.

A pediatric audiologist provides accurate hearing testing. Comprehensive testing is needed to fully understand your child's hearing and your treatment options. A pediatric audiologist will have the equipment and skills to adjust hearing testing procedures to meet your child's needs, and to help you understand what your child can and cannot hear.

A pediatric audiologist will have the knowledge, skills and equipment to appropriately adjust your child's hearing devices so soft sounds can be heard and loud sounds are not uncomfortable. Hearing devices need to be adjusted routinely to make sure your child can hear. Children need to hear speech sounds to learn how to talk.

A pediatric audiologist makes timely referrals for additional assessments and services. When children are diagnosed with hearing loss audiologists are required to make a referral to early intervention, and a medical referral is needed to determine if there are any other medical conditions not yet identified, and to obtain medical clearance for hearing aids. If parents experience challenges coping with the hearing loss, a referral to a counselor may be indicated.

Pediatric audiologists provide relevant education and resources to parents. They provide information to help parents make informed decisions and teach parents the skills they need to help their child every day. They are aware of regional and national resources and they connect parents to other parents through Parent-to-parent support groups. Coping with your child's hearing loss may not be easy for yourself or other family members. A pediatric audiologist is aware of this and is there to support you and your family on this journey with your child.



Pediatric audiologists monitor your child's progress. They do this by partnering with parents to understand how your child is performing in their everyday lives and to support you in providing effective daily management. They also collaborate with other professionals you and your child are working with, to share relevant test results to understand the full picture of how your child is doing. Progress monitoring is a process and this means your child will be scheduled for routine assessments to check their hearing and their hearing device function.

Pediatric audiologists can help your child access sound in their everyday environments, such as their daycare, at school, and when playing sports. They can help you advocate for your child's hearing needs in various environments and help make sure that your child is receiving appropriate services and accommodations at school.

To find a pediatric audiologist in your area, you can search the EHDI Pals website, that stands for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Pediatric Audiology Links to Services. You will be asked to input your child's date of birth and your city and state. The search will then yield pediatric audiologists in your area. You can also connect with your state EHDI coordinator for help in finding a pediatric audiologist. This information can be found on the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management or (NCHAM) website, go to the states tab and then to the state profiles.

If you would like to learn more about recommended services for children with hearing loss, you can visit the research section of the Hear to learn website, professional practice guidelines are listed, and they provide specific information about recommended testing for evidence-based practice. There are also links to additional resources in the resource section of this tutorial.