

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ These suggestions are helpful for \_\_\_\_\_

Audiologist: \_\_\_\_\_

Audiologist Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your child is experiencing a hearing loss commonly associated with middle ear problems, which can fluctuate depending on the health of the middle ears. The hearing loss and its cause, while usually not permanent, require medical care.

The child will need special attention from you to overcome the “muffling” of sounds from the hearing loss. The child may be able to hear your voice, but it may sound weak or far-away, as if the volume has been reduced. The child may have more difficulty than usual hearing in noisy places, when he/she is far away from you, or when the child’s back is to you. The hearing loss may not be obvious in a young child, because there is enough hearing for the child to turn to his/her name and to respond to simple commands, but all sounds are not clear.

There are several ways you can help the child hear during this time:

- Ask your child to look at you before talking to him/her.
- Speak to the child at close range using clear speech and a well-projected voice. It is not necessary to shout.
- Turn the volume of the TV or music up if it is something you want your child to enjoy. Turn the volume down or move to a quieter area if you are talking with your child.
- Remember that your child may be missing or mishearing instructions. You may need to move closer to your child and repeat what you have said.
- Sing and read to your child often in your lap. When your child is interested in something, take the time to talk about it.
- Continue to see your child’s physician to monitor ear health, and follow through on any prescribed medications. Have a follow-up hearing evaluation when the ears are healthy.
- If you have concerns about your child’s speech development, discuss this with the pediatrician. Having your child’s speech evaluated by a speech-language pathologist is always an option.
- Inform your child’s teacher about this hearing loss so accommodations can be made.

**Please do not hesitate to contact the child’s audiologist with any questions!**