

Why Do We Need Hearing Aids

Children learn almost everything by hearing. Without using hearing aids all day, every day, your child's learning will likely be significantly delayed by the time they start Kindergarten. They might never catch up!

- The part of the brain that makes sense of sounds needs to be developed before hearing can be used to learn. The goal of hearing aids is to make sound louder. This allows the auditory part of the brain to grow. This brain growth happens before the child can use hearing to learn to understand words, to talk and to read.
- Early growth of the brain in the first two years of life cannot be made up later. To develop the auditory part of the brain, a child must hear his best ALL DAY long, every day.
- Your child can't learn words he or she doesn't hear. Typically hearing children hear 46 million words by 4 years old. To learn new words from what people are saying around them, your child's hearing devices need to make speech clear and loud to hear the quiet speech sounds from more than a few feet away.
- Children need to listen for 20,000 hours before their brains are ready to learn how to read.



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To be ready to start school like other children, your child needs to wear hearing aids every waking hour from infancy.

- A child needs to use hearing aids all day, every day to develop speech, language and social skills like other children his or her age.
- Children who have used hearing aids all day, every day may have been able to listen to 20,000 hours needed to be ready to learn to read at the same time as other children his or her age.
- Even children with a 'mild' hearing loss may talk and understand more like 3-year-olds when they enter kindergarten if they do not use hearing aids every waking hour.
- The important time for brain growth during the first two years cannot be made up late. Many children who enter school with learning delays do not 'catch up' once they go to school.

