

My child has unilateral hearing loss

What is a unilateral hearing loss?

Unilateral means your child has hearing loss in just one ear.

Will my child develop normally with only one good ear?

Hopefully so! Children (and adults) hear much better with two ears than one, especially in background noise. It is important to speak with your child's audiologist about maximizing your child's hearing. Compared to children with normal hearing, children who have unilateral hearing loss are 10 times more likely to have difficulty in school and are 7 times more likely to fail a grade. They need every opportunity to learn and we need to help them from falling behind.

When should my child start wearing a hearing aid?

Usually, within the first year of life. The first three years of life are when children learn speech and language. You will want to be sure your child doesn't miss out on that window of opportunity.

Will my child talk normally?

*Children with unilateral hearing loss have a more difficult time picking up new words. You may not notice this until your child is around 18 months old, so it is important to **act early**.*

Will my child's hearing get worse?

It is possible that your child's hearing may get worse. It is also possible that your child might have hearing loss in his/her good ear sometime in the future. For these reasons, it is important that your child have regular hearing tests (at least twice a year).

What should I do next to give my child the best start?

*Enroll your child in early intervention services. Your audiologist or child's doctor can tell you how to reach your local tiny-k Infant Toddler program. If you have not been contacted, please contact the SoundBeginnings Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program at 785-368-7167. It is **FREE** and **EASY** to start!*

What is early intervention?

Early intervention is a free service that is provided by local tiny-k programs throughout Kansas. Early intervention builds upon and provides supports and resources to assist family members and caregivers to enhance children's learning and development through everyday learning opportunities. An early intervention team will partner with you to provide services that are individualized and designed to support your child's needs and your family's identified outcomes and priorities. These services are provided in your home (or child's daycare). All Kansas infants, birth to 3 years of age with any type or degree of hearing loss can receive these services

What information is provided through Early Intervention?

1) What unilateral hearing loss means for your child's development; 2) Ways to improve communication between you and your child; 3) Hearing protection for the better ear; 4) Child development; 5) The importance of early literacy and learning.