

My child has mild hearing loss

Mild hearing loss doesn't sound bad. Why should I be concerned?

Listening with a mild hearing loss takes more attention and more work. It is also easy to miss parts of words, especially when information is new.

My child hears so much. Why would the hearing loss cause a problem?

Your child can "hear" but it takes more effort to listen. That effort means less energy exists to understand what was said. ANY background noise will make listening much harder. Even with a mild hearing loss children without hearing aids can miss 15-25% of what a teacher says in a classroom. Teachers often believe these students are not paying attention or are not following directions.

My child seems to hear. Why should he/she wear hearing aids?

Even with a mild hearing loss, your child may not hear all of the speech sounds. The first three years of life are when children learn speech and language, so you will want to be sure your child doesn't miss out on that window of opportunity. Without hearing aids, your child is more likely to have speech, language, behavior and/or social problems.

Will my child's hearing get worse?

It is possible that your child's hearing may get worse. For this reason, 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 mild hearing loss means for your child's development; 2) Ways to improve communication between you and your child; 3) Hearing protection; 4) Child development; 5) The importance of early literacy and learning.