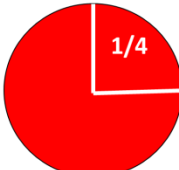


The Developing Child with Unilateral Hearing Loss: HEARING DOES NOT ALWAYS STAY THE SAME

Families need to know... Hearing does not always stay the same.  It appears that one out of every four children with one normal hearing ear will develop hearing loss in their better hearing ear. This appears true for the children normal looking ears, not those born with a deformed ear. We cannot predict which children will end up having permanent loss in both ears!	Any additional hearing loss... - In the better hearing ear - Or in the poor hearing ear WILL increase the child's chance of developing greater listening, language, behavior and learning issues. This does NOT mean that ¼ of these children become deaf in both ears, just that some amount of additional hearing loss – <i>great or small</i> - will develop. 
Something families need to know! Hearing does not always stay the same. Children can have ear infection that can cause hearing loss in both ears. This additional hearing loss will affect them more than other children because they are relying so heavily on their one better hearing ear for listening and learning. 	Something families need to know! Hearing does not always stay the same. Hearing can be damaged by loud noises, even when they occur only once. A child with hearing in only one ear must rely on that ear to hear for their whole lives – they can't afford to damage this hearing! Keep your child away from loud sounds or protect their hearing with ear plugs. 
What to do about permanent hearing loss: Changes in permanent hearing loss: • Return to the audiologist for a hearing check-up every 3-4 months until the child is 3 years old or the audiologist says that testing this often is no longer necessary. Next appointment _____ Noise induced hearing loss: • Prevention is job #1. Keep your child away from noisy settings. If he or she must be there (i.e., family celebration with fireworks) be sure that the child wears ear plugs. 	What to do about ear infections About 1 child in every 6 children has serious problems with recurring ear infections before they start school. Fluctuating hearing loss – or hearing loss that comes and goes – happens with ear problems. Because your child relies on one ear, this inconsistent hearing may have a much greater affect on their listening and eventual learning. If you think your child may have an ear infection seek medical care promptly! 

SUGGESTED FOR HOME VISIT 1