

# Hearing Loss

## FACTS:

- In the United States, 2-3 children per 1,000 are born with hearing loss each year.
- The U.S. Department of Education (2002) reports that, during the 2000-2001 school year, 70,767 students aged six to 21 (or 1.3% of all students with disabilities) received special education services under the category of "hearing impairment." However, the number of children with hearing loss and deafness is undoubtedly higher, since many of these students may have other disabilities as well and may be served under other categories.
- Undiagnosed and untreated hearing loss can negatively impact a child's life— significantly affecting his or her development, achievement, and employment abilities.
- About 2-3 children per 1,000 in the United States are born deaf or hard of hearing.

Back to School Month

## RESOURCES:

### Washtenaw County Public Health

<http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>

### Michigan Department of Community Health

#### *Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program*

[http://michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942\\_4911\\_21429-55522--\\_00.html](http://michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_21429-55522--_00.html)

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

#### *Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program*

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/ehdi/default.htm>

### E-Michigan Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

<http://www.michdhh.org/index.html>

### Hearing Loss Association of Michigan

<http://www.mi-shhh.org/>



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

### Hearing Loss

Hearing loss can vary greatly among children and can be caused by many things.

### Signs of Hearing Loss

- Does not turn to the source of a sound by 3-4 months of age.
- Pays attention to vibrating noises or noises that can be felt, rather than heard.
- Turns head when he or she sees you but not if you call out his or her name; this usually is mistaken for not paying attention or just ignoring, but could be the result of a hearing loss.
- Hears some sounds but not others.

### What causes hearing loss? Can it be prevented?

Hearing loss can happen any time during life– from birth to adulthood. Babies born early, who have low birth weight, or who are exposed to infections in the womb might have hearing loss, but this can happen to full-term babies as well. Genetic factors are the cause of hearing loss in about 50% of babies; these babies might have family members who are deaf. Illnesses, injuries, certain medical conditions, and loud noise levels can cause children and adults to lose hearing. Some causes of hearing loss can be prevented.

**If you or your doctor think your child might have hearing loss, ask that a hearing test be done as soon as possible.**

## SERVICES AVAILABLE:

Free hearing screening is provided to all Washtenaw County children under the age of 21 (age 26 for special education students). Screening is done in the schools (public, private, charter, and preschool) and at Washtenaw County Public Health by appointment. The program also provides a free Otology Clinic by appointment only for those children identified during screening as having a hearing difficulty.

### Hearing Screenings

Hearing screenings are done with the use of an audiometer and other equipment based on the child's needs. Hearing screenings are conducted in:

- Preschool
- Kindergarten
- Grades 2 & 4
- When students are new to Michigan
- Special education classrooms during alternating years

Parents who wish to bring their child to the Washtenaw County Public Health Department for hearing and vision screening should call the Health Department at **(734) 544-6786** to schedule an appointment for one of these dates:

- September 5, 2007
- October 26, 2007
- November 30, 2007
- January 11, 2008
- February 22, 2008
- March 10, 2008
- April 11, 2008
- May 16, 2008