

West Sussex 5-19 Healthy Child Programme Screening Team
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Dear Parent/Carer

Audiology Screening

Due to the Covid pandemic we will be unable to offer your child a routine hearing screen during their time in reception class. However we may be able to arrange a hearing screen for your child in a clinic setting if a need is identified using the information below.

Please read the following information provided by the Sussex Community Foundation Trust Children's Audiology team to help you to identify a potential hearing loss in your child.

If there is a family history of permanent hearing loss we advise you do request a hearing test for your child. Please see contact details on the top of the letter for this.

If you are not currently under the care of children's audiology or the Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) service and feel your child has struggled with their hearing for a **prolonged period (10-12 weeks)** please contact either your GP or the number on this letter for some further support.

Temporary hearing loss in children due to colds and infections is common and generally resolves spontaneously over time.

Yours sincerely

Healthy Child Programme 5-19 Team

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Possible signs of a hearing loss in a school – age child.



A possible hearing loss may be more difficult to identify in school- age children. Older children may sometimes develop a hearing loss that wasn't there before.

The following guidelines can help parents and carers to detect a possible acquired hearing loss.

- ✓ Your child seems to hear well some of the time and then not respond at other times; perhaps in the presence of background noise.
- ✓ Your child requires the volume of the TV/iPad louder than other family members.
- ✓ Your child says “What?” or “Pardon?” frequently.
- ✓ Your child may often mishear words or phrases.
- ✓ Your child positions one ear forward when listening or comments that they can only hear out of their ‘good ear’
- ✓ School work may start to deteriorate or their teacher notes that they do not seem to hear or respond as well in the classroom as other children.
- ✓ Your child says that they did not hear you. Some parents/carers may assume that their child is simply not paying attention when in fact there may be an unidentified hearing loss.
- ✓ It seems that your child is having difficulty focusing.
- ✓ Your child starts to talk more loudly than previously.
- ✓ If your child looks at you more intensely when you speak to them, as if concentrating, they may be relying more on visual cues for help to discriminate speech.

If you are concerned about your child's hearing you should contact your GP or school nurse for further guidance.

For help and information please visit Children's Audiology at our website:

www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk

