

Children learn speech and language from listening to others. The first few years are particularly critical for development. When a hearing loss exists a child does not get the full benefit of language learning experiences. If a hearing loss goes unnoticed, delays in speech and language learning can occur. If you think that your child, (at any age) may have a hearing problem, you should see your family physician or an Audiologist as soon as possible.

## ◆ Milestones for Development:

- **Up to 6 Months**
  - Startles, cries, or awakens to loud sounds
  - Responds to music, noise or voices by movements or smiling
- **7-12 Months**
  - Turns or looks up when his/her name is called, even when you can't be seen
  - Responds to requests such as "want more" or "come here"
  - Looks at or points to everyday objects on request such as "bottle"
- **1-2 Years**
  - Turns towards you when you call his/her name from behind
  - Tries to "talk" by repeating some of the sounds you make
  - Points to a part of his/her body when asked without seeing your lips
- **2-3 Years**
  - Listens to a simple story
  - Follows two sequential requests, such as "get the ball and put it here"
  - Follows simple commands without being able to see your lips
- **3-4 Years**
  - Hears you calling from another room or hears and repeats a whisper
  - Uses sentences with four or more words and answers simple questions
- **4-5 Years**
  - Talks easily to children and adults
  - Pays attention to a simple story
  - Can tell a story about him or herself

## ◆ Warning Signs for Hearing Loss:

- Stops early babbling
- Experiences fluid drain from ears
- Frequently pulls at his/her ears (with fever or crankiness)
- Frequently gets colds and ear infections
- Does not understand someone unless he/she is facing them
- Speaks loudly or turns up the volume of the television or radio, disturbing other listeners
- Does not say single words by 12 months
- Does not respond when called
- Needs things to be repeated



## Early detection is vital.