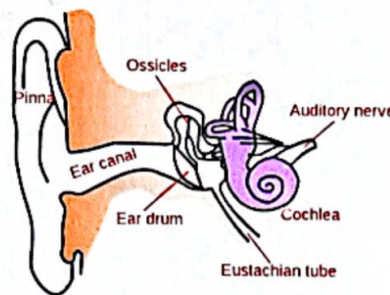




## Hearing Difficulties



If you think your child is having difficulties with hearing, they should be referred for a hearing test with the local audiology service.

Your child may be struggling to hear if they:

- Speak more loudly or quietly than usual
- Are not always responding to you
- Show difficulties learning new vocabulary
- Ask people to repeat what they say
- Ask for the TV or music to be turned up loud
- Struggle to hear people far away

General strategies to support a child that has difficulties with hearing:



- Always **attract your child's attention first** before speaking to them, by calling their name or by touch.
- Try to **speak face to face**, sitting or bending to the same level as your child. Try to have light on your face and avoid standing in front of a window which makes lip reading more difficult.
- **Cut any background noise**. Turn off the television, radio and try to reduce any other background noise, such as washing machines, or open windows etc. Avoid speaking to your child against background chatter as this will make it more difficult for them to hear you.
- Speak up and **clearly**, but don't shout. Keeping requests **short and simple**. Try to give visual or spoken clues such as **gesture** to help the child understand what you are saying.
- **Check with the child** that they are listening and watching and have understood as you go along.
- Remember to **tell any adults** working with your child. Ask them to move your child to the front of the nursery during listening activities and reduce background noise.

- More information about hearing tests can be found at:
- <https://childrenshealthsurrey.nhs.uk/services/audiology>