

# Deafness

Deafness describes any type or level of identified hearing loss including mild, moderate, severe and profound. It does not mean your child cannot hear you at all.



- All new babies are offered a hearing screening test.
- Children can develop hearing loss at any time so if you are concerned speak to your health visitor or GP.

Contact us:

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[www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk](http://www.livewellsouthwest.co.uk)

## TOP TIPS

- Gain your child's attention by calling their name, to make sure they know you are talking to them.
- Make sure you are facing them and talking face to face
- Get down to your child's level.
- Keep your face and lips visible, they may need to use lip reading to help them hear.
- Use plenty of visual clues such as gestures, simple signs and pictures to support what you are saying.
- Speak clearly and naturally and do not shout.
- Your face should be in the light, do not stand in front of the window where your face will be silhouetted.
- Wherever possible, try to reduce the background noise, so if the TV is on, turn it down or off before speaking with them.
- If you are in a group of people, ensure that only one person speaks at a time.

# More information

## There are two main types of hearing loss

1. Temporary or a “conductive loss” – can be caused by conditions such as glue ear, or a build-up of wax in the middle or outer ear. This type of deafness often comes and goes depending on colds and ear health.
2. Permanent loss – there is sensorineural damage to the inner ear. This can be diagnosed at birth, but children can also develop a hearing loss over time.

## Look out for your child

Needing you or the TV to be loud.

Not responding to their name when it is quiet.

Having delayed speech and language skills.

**Get their hearing checked if you are worried.**

## Useful Links

- The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS)  
[www.ndcs.org](http://www.ndcs.org)
- Plymouth Audiology Service  
[plh-tr.PlymouthPaediatricAudiology@nhs.net](mailto:plh-tr.PlymouthPaediatricAudiology@nhs.net)

