

# Keeping Kids' Eyes, Ears, and Teeth Healthy!

## HEALTHY EARS

### Why should ears stay healthy?

- One in five children will develop hearing loss by age 12
- Even a mild hearing problem can have a big impact on child's ability to read, speak, and make friends
- It can be hard for children to learn in school if they have an untreated hearing problem



Most kids with mild hearing loss don't show any signs of hearing problems. It's hard to know when you're not hearing everything. Our brains do a really good job of making us think that we are hearing everything

### How often should children get their hearing screened?

- All children's hearing should be screened

## ONCE A YEAR!

- Most newborns are screened at birth
- Even very young children can be screened if you are concerned about their hearing



### Visit a medical provider if you notice your child:

- Was late to begin speaking
- Does not speak clearly
- Does not follow directions (even if you think they are not paying attention or just ignoring you)
- Often says, "Huh?"
- Turns the TV volume up too high
- Has no reaction to loud noises
- Shows no response to your voice
- Complains of earaches, ear pain, or head noises



### Where can I get my child's hearing screened?

- **Doctor visits:** A medical provider should screen for hearing problems during your child's regular check-up
- **School:** Ask your child's teacher or school nurse if the school offers hearing screenings



### Your Child's Care Team

If your child is diagnosed with hearing loss during a hearing screening, there may be many professionals on their care team:

- Audiologist
- Speech-language pathologist or therapist
- Social worker
- Pediatrician
- Early Intervention Specialist

### What can I do at home?

- **Follow-up:** If your child fails a hearing screening, make an appointment with a hearing specialist or audiologist.
- **Contact school:** Find out if your child's school has a hearing program, and fill out all the paperwork to make sure your child can receive screenings there.
- **Communicate:** If your child has hearing loss, stay in touch with their pediatrician, audiologist, speech therapist, and teacher.
- **Visit:** For more, go to [HRL.NYC](http://HRL.NYC)

