Treatment

Your child’s pediatrician or pediatric Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) doctor may suggest medical treatment options for your child’s conductive hearing loss.

It is important to remember that even after receiving treatment, some children may develop another ear infection.

Management

A pediatric audiologist can help you manage your child’s conductive hearing loss by:

- Fitting amplification when medical intervention is not effective and upon medical clearance
- Discussing communication strategies you can use when talking to your child

Communication Strategies

- Face your child when speaking.
- Get your child’s attention before speaking.
- Use visual cues such as pointing, gesturing, or pictures.
- Seat your child near the talker.

To find a pediatric audiologist near you, please visit one of the links below:

http://webportal.audiology.org/Custom/FindAnAudiologist.aspx

http://www.asha.org/profind/

Conductive Hearing Loss

Effects of Otitis Media and Other Causes of Fluctuating Hearing Loss

Scan here with your mobile device to learn more!
If conductive hearing loss is not managed or treated, it could have a negative impact on your child’s speech and language development, learning, and attention.

**What is Conductive Hearing Loss?**

Conductive hearing loss is a type of hearing loss resulting from a problem in the outer or middle ear, making it difficult for sound to reach the inner ear.

**Common Causes of Conductive Hearing Loss**

- **Ear Canal Blockage**
  - Build up of ear wax
  - Small objects or toy pieces
  - Swollen ear canal

- **Fluid in the Ear**
  - Watery, thick, or pus-like
  - May be draining from the ear
  - May be trapped behind the ear drum
  - Can be infected

- **Genetic Syndromes**
  - Down Syndrome
  - Treacher Collins Syndrome
  - Goldenhar Syndrome
  - Etc.

- **Uncommon Anatomy**
  - Small or absent outer ear
  - Closed, narrow, or absent ear canal
  - Problems with middle ear bones

**Otitis Externa**

Otitis externa is swelling, irritation, and/or infection occurring in the **outer ear**.

**Otitis Media**

Otitis media is irritation, infection, and/or build up of fluid or pus in the **middle ear**.

**Signs and Symptoms of Otitis Externa**

- Pain
- Redness
- Drainage
- Itching
- Tenderness
- Bad smell
- Hearing loss

**Signs and Symptoms of Otitis Media**

- Fever
- Crying
- Drainage
- Odor
- Difficulty sleeping
- Tugging on ears
- Hearing Loss

**Effects of Conductive Hearing Loss**

- Sounds may seem muffled.
- Soft sounds may not be heard.
- Some parts of speech may not be heard.