Communication Options

One method of communication may not work for every child. It is important to discuss the appropriate options for your child, and his or her needs, with your healthcare provider.

- Visual
- Tactile
- Aural/Oral
- Combination

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/

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Hearing Loss & Communication Disorders

Hearing loss does not always occur on its own; it can be related to, or occur at the same time as, other health conditions.

Genetics

DNA are the building blocks that make a person unique. Genes are packaged into 23 pairs of chromosomes which make up DNA.

Many different traits, like eye color, are passed from parent to child through genes. Variations of particular genes can cause hearing loss.

Syndromes

A syndrome occurs when genetic variations result in a set of symptoms. Symptoms may impact many areas of the body including the heart, lungs, kidneys, eyes, and ears.

- **Down Syndrome** is caused by a genetic variation of chromosome 21 and may affect a child’s development, both physically and intellectually. Children with Down Syndrome may develop hearing complications due to small ear canals or recurring ear infections.

- **Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder (ANSD)** occurs when the transmission of sound from the inner ear along the hearing nerve to the brain becomes disorganized often distorting speech.

- **Unilateral Hearing Loss (UHL)** is hearing loss in only one ear. A child with UHL may have difficulty locating sounds, understanding speech in noisy places, or have delayed speech and language.

- **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** is a developmental disorder in which a child may display repetitive behaviors and can have difficulty with sensory processing, social interaction, and communication.

Special Populations

- **Craniofacial anomalies** are various differences of the bones in the head and face, which can impact various structures including the ears.

- An eye exam is recommended for a child identified with hearing loss, as vision and hearing difficulties can occur together, sometimes as a part of a syndrome.

- **Learning disabilities** do not affect intelligence, but may impact the way a child learns and retains information.

- There are many other concomitant disabilities but these are among the most common.