

# HEARING MATTERS!

Early identification and intervention changes lives!



## What is hearing loss?

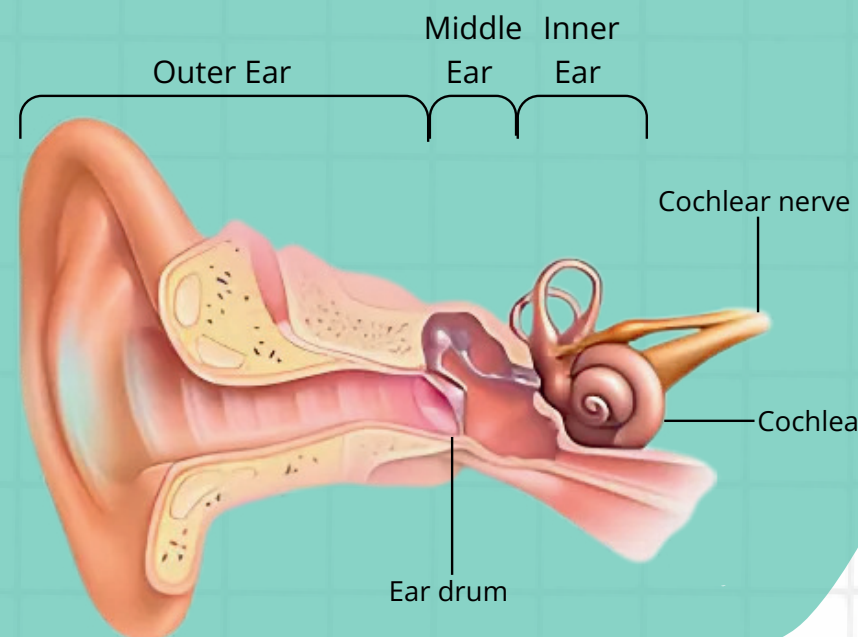
- Children with hearing loss are unable to hear sounds, words, or noises clearly.
- It may have been present from birth, or it may happen slowly or suddenly.
- There are different levels of hearing loss, ranging from mild to profound (completely deaf).

## Most common causes of hearing loss in children

- Glue ear (otitis media with effusion)
- Long-standing ear infections
- Wax impaction
- Damage or problems affecting the cochlea or nerve

## Why does it happen?

- For a sound to be heard, it needs to travel through the ear canal, to the ear drum, cochlea (sense organ), cochlear nerve (sense nerve) and then to the brain.
- A problem at any one of these sites may cause hearing loss.



## How does it affect your child?

- They can't hear properly.
- They must concentrate hard to hear.
- This makes them tired and affects their ability to learn.
- It can make them frustrated and irritable.

It can make them feel lonely and isolated because they are not always sure of what is happening around them.



## How can you help?

- Be aware.
- Try active listening techniques. (Resources available on our website.)
- Ask for help! If you think that your child may have a hearing loss, the child should be referred to an audiologist for a hearing test. You know your child better than anyone else!!!