Make sure your child can hear you say, “I love you.” Endless days of silence – or muffled voices – can result in a lifetime of learning problems. Hearing loss can happen at any time, often as a result of many ear infections.

Be sure your child can hear the words of your heart. Post this hearing checklist and use it monthly. If you suspect a hearing problem, call your doctor or nurse as soon as possible. Your child is counting on you.

My Child’s Hearing Checklist

During the first three months, does your child:
- Quiet when a familiar voice is heard?
- Act startled when a loud sound happens nearby?

When your child is 3-6 months, does your child:
- Turn head to search for the source of your voice?
- Enjoy rattles and other noise-making toys?
- Look to the speaker’s voice?

When your child is 6-10 months, does your child:
- React to music by cooing?
- Understand common words like “no,” “bye,” “all-gone,” and “nighty-night”?
- Babble by saying sounds like “da,” “ba,” or “ma”?

When your child is 10-15 months, does your child:
- Know the names of favorite toys and point them out when asked?
- Respond positively to rhymes and jingles like “pat-a-cake” or “peek-a-boo”?
- Imitate simple words and sounds?

When your child is 15-20 months, does your child:
- Follow simple directions such as “go get your shoes,” or “bring the book to me”?
- Recognize names of body parts such as nose, eyes, ears, and hair?
- Speak 10-20 words? (Words may not be clear but you understand them.)

When your child is 20-24 months, does your child:
- Combine simple words such as “daddy work” or “go bye-bye”?
- Refer to self by name?
- Show interest in the sounds of radio and television?

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