



Parent Page

Be Child Aware:

Did You Know...Hearing is Important to Your Child's Learning Process?

- Unborn infants can hear the sounds of the mother's heartbeat and outside sounds (which are muted by the amniotic fluid) during the last 10 weeks of the mother's pregnancy
- Newborn infants are a little hard of hearing because their middle ear is still developing
- Before a child reaches 6 months of age, he/she is able to discern the difference between the human voice and other sounds
- Infants prefer hearing "parentese" which is the adult version of baby talk, because infants respond to the higher pitch of tone and the exaggeration of sounds
- Between 6 and 12 months of age your baby's brain is developing paths, or maps, for the sounds they hear
- Children under the age of 12 months hear distinct sounds and meaningless words
- Toddlers between 1 and 2 years of age point to pictured objects in books and respond to verbal cues
- Research has shown that children who are exposed to a large number of words per hour by age 3 score higher on standardized tests than children who hear fewer words
- Research has also shown that sounds heard through TV or videos do not impact a child's language. The increase in ability only comes through hearing words spoken directly through adult/child interaction

The more language your child hears from you, the more language your child will acquire. Children love to hear and need to hear the happy, gentle, positive language parents and adults can provide. Talk to your child. Talk while you are bathing, diapering, feeding, comforting, reading, traveling, etc. Talk, talk, talk, and in return, your child will learn to talk, talk, talk.

If your child does not respond to sound, please have his/her hearing checked.

There is a difference between having your child's hearing checked and your child's ears checked. If your child suffers from chronic ear aches or sinus problems please have his/her hearing checked on a regular basis. Many children enter school with an undetected hearing loss. This hearing loss directly impacts your child's ability to learn. Children who experience hearing and vision loss (two things which are difficult to detect early) also acquire compensation skills which will mask the hearing or vision loss. It is also important for you, as a parent, to have hearing and vision screenings done on a regular basis.

For more information about Child Care in your area please call 1-866-269-3022.



There are no charges/fees associated with a provider listing in the Child Care resource and referral database, or for parent referrals to a program. If you are asked to provide payment for a referral from the CCR&R database, please call the Office of Early Learning at 1-866-357-3239.