

## What Can I Do If My Child Might Have Hearing Loss?

Hearing loss can affect a child's ability to develop speech, language, and social skills. The earlier a child who has a hearing loss starts getting services, the more likely the child's speech, language, and social skills will reach their full potential. Services can be received through your local Child Development Center.

Ask your child's health care provider for information and help.

Schedule an appointment and have your child's hearing screened.

Call a Child Development Center in your community.



### Directory of Child Development Centers in Wyoming:

Afton	885-9286	Glenrock	436-5357	Rawlins	324-9656
Alpine	654-4116	Green River	872-3290	Riverton (0-3)	856-4246
Arapahoe	857-9333	Guernsey	836-2838	Riverton (3-5)	856-4337
Basin	568-2914	Hulett	467-5944	Rock Springs	352-6871
Big Piney	276-5415	Jackson	733-3791	Saratoga	326-5839
Buffalo	684-9271	Kemmerer	877-6984	Sheridan	672-6610
Casper	235-5097	Laramie	742-6374	Shoshone	876-2551
Cheyenne	632-2991	Lander	332-5508	Sundance	282-2526
Cody	527-7784	Lovell	548-6722	Thayne	883-4116
Douglas	358-3901	Lusk	334-2252	Thermopolis	864-9227
Dubois	455-3341	Moorcroft	756-3554	Torrington	532-7068
Evanston	789-7384	Mountain View	782-6601	Upton	468-2200
Ft. Washakie	332-5678	Newcastle	746-4560	Wheatland	322-3385
Gillette	682-2392	Pinedale	367-6306	Worland	347-8677
		Powell	754-2864		

### Where Can I Get More Information Regarding Hearing Loss?

- Wyoming Department of Health  
—Developmental Disabilities Division 800-510-0280
- Wyoming EHDI Program 307-721-6212
- Your Health Care Provider
- [www.WyomingEHDI.org](http://www.WyomingEHDI.org)
- [www.babyhearing.org](http://www.babyhearing.org)
- [www.infanthearing.org](http://www.infanthearing.org)

## Wyoming Early Hearing Detection & Intervention (EHDI) Program



Why Is It Important  
To Have Your Child's  
Hearing Screened  
Each Year?

Hearing loss can happen at any time during life.... from before birth to adulthood....

### What is Hearing Loss in Children?

Hearing loss can vary greatly among children and can be caused by many things.

Many children experience mild, temporary hearing loss when fluid is in the middle ear from allergies or colds. Sometimes as a result of an ear infection, fluid stays in the middle ears. This may cause hearing loss and delays in your child's speech and language development.



Some children have permanent hearing loss. This can range from mild (they don't hear as well as you do) to complete (they can't hear anything at all).

### What Are Some Signs of Hearing Loss?

The signs and symptoms of hearing loss are different for different children. If you see any of these signs, consult your child's doctor, public health nurse, or local Child Development Center:

- Does not turn to the source of a sound by 3 to 4 months of age.
- Pays attention to vibrating noises or noises that can be felt rather than heard.
- Does not say single words, such as "dada" or "mama" by 1 year of age.
- Turns head when he or she sees you but not if you only call out his or her name: this usually is mistaken for not paying attention or just ignoring, but could be the result of a partial hearing loss.
- Hears some sounds but not others.

It is not easy to tell if your child has a hearing loss because most hearing loss is partial. Below is an example of the ability to hear speech with a hearing loss:

Normal Hearing:	Freddie thought he should find a whistle
Mild Hearing Loss:	Freddie though- -e -ould -ind a whi-le
Moderate Hearing Loss:	-reddie -ough- -e -ould -i- a -i-le
Severe Hearing Loss:	-e-ie -ou-- -e -ou- -i- a -i-le
Profound Hearing Loss:	LOUDsoft LOUD soft soft LOUD soft LOUDsoft

The following are Risk Factors often associated with infant and childhood hearing loss. If you check one or more boxes below, your child may be at risk for hearing loss.

- Family history of children with hearing loss
- Head, face, or ears may be shaped or formed in a different way than usual
- Bad injury to the head (that needed medical care)
- Ear infections with fluid that last more than four months
- Spent 48 hours or more in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Has a neurological disorder that is associated with hearing loss (check with your health care provider)
- Exposed to infection before birth
- Infection around the brain and spinal cord caused by bacteria (Bacterial Meningitis)
- Bad jaundice (Hyperbilirubinemia) in babies that needed a special procedure (Exchange Transfusion)
- You are worried about your child's hearing