

# May is Better Hearing Month!

## Trust Your Hearing to an Audiologist

**FACT:** Up to six out of 1000 babies are born with hearing loss.

**FACT:** In Ontario, newborn hearing screening is mandatory.

**FACT:** An audiologist is the *only* qualified professional to identify and treat hearing loss in infants and children, including assessing hearing ability, selecting and fitting hearing aids and designing and implementing habilitation strategies.

**FACT:** Early diagnosis and treatment is **crucial** for normal speech and language development.

### **NORMAL HEARING MILESTONES:**

**6 months** – startle, cry or awaken to loud sounds and respond to music or voices by moving or smiling;

**7-12 months** – turn or look up when his/her name is called, responds to requests such as “want more” or “come here”, looks at or points to everyday objects on request, such as “bottle”

**1-2 years** – tries to “talk” by repeating some of the sounds you make, points to a part of his/her body when asked

**2-3 years** – listens to simple stories, follows two sequential requests

**3-4 years** – hears you calling from another room, repeats a whisper, uses sentences with four or more words and answers simple questions

**4-5 years** – talks easily to other children/adults and can tell a story about him or her self

**WARNING SIGNS FOR HEARING LOSS:** stops early babbling, experiences fluid drain from ears, frequently tugs at his/her ears, frequently gets colds and ear infections, does not say single words by 12 months, does not respond when called, needs things to be repeated, speaks loudly or turns up the volume of the television or radio.

Beyond hearing testing, some audiologists assess **central auditory processing (CAP)**. Since problems with CAP may manifest as a language problem, children with CAP disorder can be mis-identified as attention deficit or as having a learning disability. Some signs and symptoms of CAP disorder include difficulty following directions, weak academic performance in reading, spelling, writing and/or problem-based mathematics, easily distracted, disorganized and forgetful, difficulty following conversations, and communication problems may be more pronounced in noisy environments.

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s hearing or auditory processing, contact an audiologist in your community. Your child’s hearing should be assessed on an annual basis and more frequently if there is a history of ear infections.

**We’re celebrating Better Hearing Month on May 11 and 12** where you have the opportunity to receive information on hearing care for your entire family. For more information, please visit or call audiologist Sherina S. Crichlow at Bovaird Hearing Clinic at (905) 790-7342.