

## **BACK TO SCHOOL REMINDER: A Painful Admission...**

When my 17 month old daughter Charisma gets sick, I always have a brief moment of hesitation before I take her to our pediatrician. Although her pediatrician is nothing short of outstanding, I cringe at the thought of him giving me bad news. When it comes to our children's health, getting the official medical diagnosis is scary. It's almost as if we ignore the issue, it will go away. Unfortunately, the opposite is too often true: medical problems can, and usually do, get worse when we ignore them.



Sometime ago, a couple came to my clinic with their four year old son who did not talk. He babbled and understood simple directions from someone directly in his line of sight. Although they had thought about doing it for years, they never got him a hearing test because they wanted more time to believe he was simply a "late bloomer."

My hearing test confirmed a hearing loss in the range that made the majority of speech, especially the consonant sounds, difficult to hear; something that could be easily remedied by hearing aids. Good news- he would now be able to hear speech! The heart wrenching part was that without hearing most of the speech range for so long, he had fallen behind on earlier critical milestones for speech and language development (refer to [www.bovairdhearingclinic.ca](http://www.bovairdhearingclinic.ca) for Speech and Hearing Milestones for Children). Fortunately, it is hoped that he will eventually gain normal speech development with consistent work with a speech-language pathologist.

We all fear anything being wrong with our children, but the faster we can get to a medical diagnosis, the faster we can work towards positive solutions and avoid unnecessary complications. If you have any concerns about your child's hearing, attention and/or academic performance, please call Bovaird Hearing Clinic for a hearing or central auditory assessment. Also, as our children settle back to school or daycare this month, please ensure that you call us for your annual hearing test. Inquire about our Pediatric Hearing Lunch 'n Learn Seminar in October.

***Dr. Sherina Crichlow at Bovaird Hearing Clinic:  
Here for you today so you can Hear tomorrow. (905) 790 7342.***