

# Visiting an Audiologist

Visit an audiologist to see if your child needs a hearing test.

## What an audiologist can do for your child

- Test your child's hearing
  - Your child may need many different tests if the results of the first test aren't clear.
- Help your child get [hearing aids](#)
  - He'll tell you what kind of hearing aids will help your child the most.
  - He'll make molds of your child's ears.
  - Many audiologists can lend you hearing aids until you get your own.
  - He can help you apply for financial assistance to help pay for the hearing aids.
- Help take care of your child's hearing aids
  - He makes sure the hearing aids fit properly.
  - He'll check the hearing aids to make sure they are working.
- Keep track of your child's hearing
  - He can see if your child's hearing gets better or worse. This helps him get the best hearing aid for your child as she grows.
  - Babies and toddlers: See the audiologist every 6 months.
  - Older children: See the audiologist once a year or more often if needed.
- Give you information
  - He may tell you to call someone in your state, county or school district to find out what programs are near you.
  - He may tell you about schools and other programs near you.
  - He may put you in touch with other parents of children with hearing loss.
  - He may tell you about [different ways to communicate](#) with your child



### Remember!

You make decisions for your child. The audiologist only gives you information about your choices. Here's how to work with him:

- Ask your audiologist about your choices.
- Ask him what the good and bad sides of each choice are.
- Read books or articles about your choices.
- Talk to other parents about the choices you want to make.

## Where to find an audiologist

Audiologists work in many different places:

- hospitals
- doctor's offices

- their own homes
- local schools
- schools for the deaf

### **How to find a good audiologist**

There are many different audiologists. You need to find a good one for your child. Here's how:

- Ask your child's doctor to refer you to an audiologist.
- Ask other parents of children with hearing loss for a good audiologist.
- Ask the school for the deaf near you.

### To make sure you're getting the best audiologist for your child:

- Ask the audiologist if he's worked with young children before.
  - Many audiologists work with older people.
  - Try to get a **pediatric audiologist**. This kind of audiologist works with children. He'll have the right equipment to test young children.
- Ask if he's certified by the [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\)](#).
  - ASHA is a group for audiologists and speech and language pathologists.
  - ASHA gives audiologists a **certificate of clinical competence for audiology (CCC-A)** after they pass a test and get some experience.
- Ask if he's allowed to work as an audiologist.
  - In some states, audiologists need a license to practice.

### **Learn more**

- Find out how an [educational audiologist](#) could help your child.
- Ask questions of audiologists, and read answers online at [Ask an Audiologist](#) on the American Academy of Audiology's website.
- Visit [the Hearing Assessment page](#) at [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) to find out more about how the audiologist checks your child's hearing loss.

Next: [Your first visit to the audiologist](#)