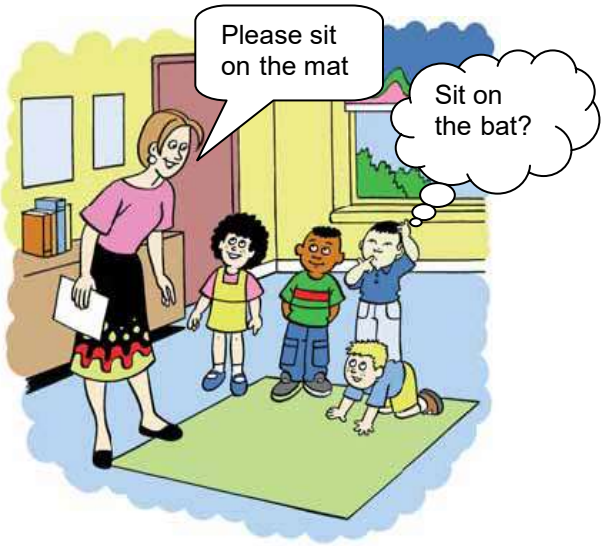
Helping Children Understand



Use plenty of visual clues.

Break-up what you have to say into smaller chunks.

Check the child has understood what you said at regular intervals.



Please Remember:

- Children with 'Glue Ear' may be irritable or restless.
- How much they hear can change from one day to the next.
- They may hear noises like whistles or pops caused by the movement of the liquid.
- They may feel unwell.
- All this can affect their mood and behaviour.

If you would like further advice about Glue Ear please speak to your Area SENCo or contact the Specialist Team:

The Specialist Team
Building 2
North London Business Park
Oakleigh Road South
London N11 1NP

Tel: 07771613496

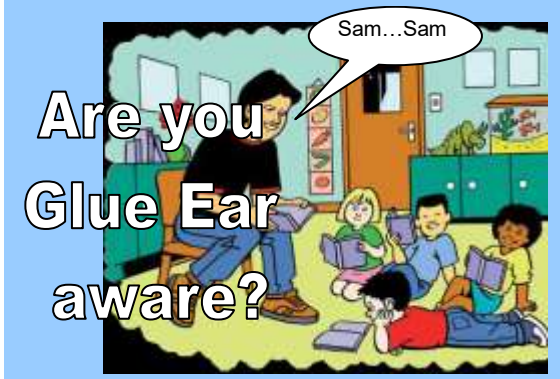
e-mail: ann.east@barnet.gov.uk

Produced by the Specialist Team
London Borough of Barnet

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Barnet Children's Hearing Services

Glue Ear
&
Eustachian Tube Dysfunction

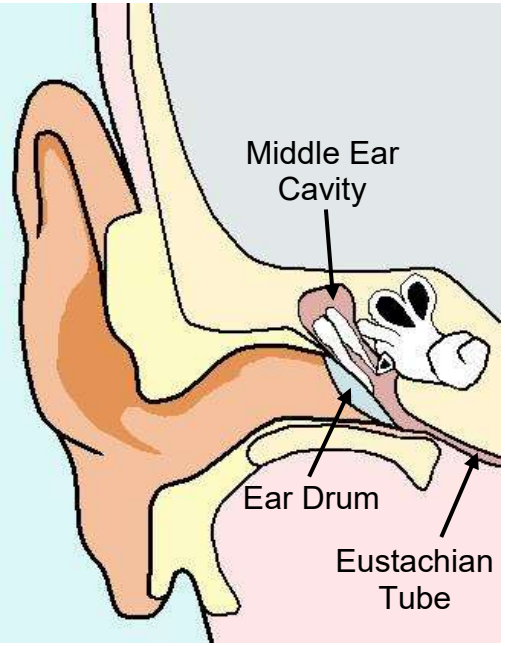


It's time to check for the UK's most common childhood illness.

One in five children under eight may suffer from Glue Ear during the winter

What is Glue Ear?

For ears to work properly the middle ear needs to be kept full of air. A small tube called the "Eustachian" tube runs from the middle ear to the back of the throat. Usually air can get in and out when you swallow.



In children this tube is not as vertical or wide as it will be when they grow older so it doesn't work as well.

This tube can get blocked when the child has a cold and liquid can start to form in the middle ear. Sometimes the liquid thickens and will not drain away, even when the child gets over their cold.

With fluid blocking the middle ear it becomes harder for sound to pass through, resulting in a hearing loss.

If you are worried about a child's hearing, discuss with the child's parents. Parents can discuss this further with the child's Health Visitor or General Practitioner (GP).

What Can You Do?

You can make listening easier for children by following these tips:



Make sure you have the child's attention before you start talking.

Try and face sources of light rather than facing away from them. For example, let the child sit with their back to the window.



Get down to the child's level, make sure you face the child as much as possible and keep eye contact.

Speak clearly, without shouting and keep your normal rhythm of speech.

Background Noise!

All background noise makes it more difficult for children to hear what you say.

Encourage other children to be aware of noise levels.

Curtains or blinds, carpets or putting a cloth over tables reduces reverberation and noise.