Helping Children Understand



- Make sure you know which is the child's better ear.
- Always ensure the child is sitting with the better ear towards the speaker.
- Repeat or reflect back to the child anything other children say. They may not be sitting on the side of the better ear.



- Make sure the child knows who is going to speak next.
- 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.
- It is important to preserve the hearing in the better ear. It may be advisable for the child to avoid contact sports like rugby or boxing.

If you would like further advice, or would just like to speak to someone about any concerns you have regarding hearing loss please contact the Specialist Team:

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

Tel: 020 8359 5554

specialist.team@barnet.gov.uk

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London Borough of Barnet

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Barnet Children's Hearing Services

Unilateral Hearing Loss



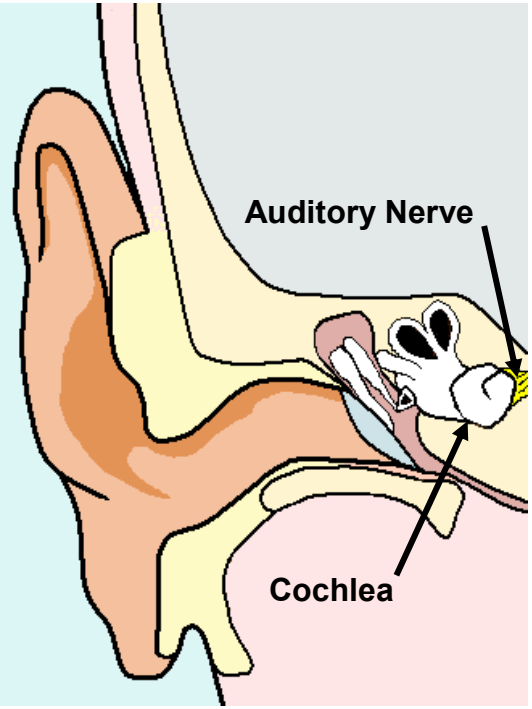
Information for teachers and other professionals working with children and young people who have a hearing loss in one ear

What is Unilateral Hearing Loss?

Unilateral hearing loss is when one ear only is affected. The loss is usually due to damage to the organ of hearing *(Cochlea)* or the nerve of hearing *(Auditory Nerve)*. The loss is usually permanent.

The amount of hearing loss varies from child to child, but as the hearing in the other ear is 'normal' the child may not appear to have any difficulties.

Care must be taken to preserve the hearing in the better ear.



There are many causes of unilateral hearing loss. The damage can occur before birth, as a result of infection, illness, medication or for genetic reasons. Infection or illness may also cause damage during the early years of life or it can be as a result of head injury.



Although the child may appear to have few difficulties, nonetheless you may find the child;

- has difficulty knowing which direction a sound is coming from.
- finds it more difficult than other children to hear if there is background noise.
- finds it more difficult to hear small differences between various sounds.
- needs to have their better ear towards people who are speaking.
- has less awareness of road traffic.

Background Noise!



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

- close the window or door when there is noise outside
- add rubber tips to chair and table legs
- replace noisy equipment
- encourage other children to be aware of noise levels and work quietly.
- curtains or blinds, carpets and putting cloths over tables reduces reverberation and noise.