

Hearing loss can affect a child's ability to develop speech, language, and social skills. The earlier a child who has a hearing loss starts receiving services, the more likely a child's speech, language, social skills will reach their full potential. Services for your child can be arranged through your local child development center.

What can I do if my child might have a hearing loss?

Ask your child's healthcare provider for information and help.  
 Call your local child development center to have your child's hearing screened.  
 Contact the Wyoming EHDl Program with any questions you have.

# Why It's Important To Have Your Child's Hearing Screened Each Year

## Directory of Child Development Centers in Wyoming

Afton	885-9286	Lovell	548-6722
Alpine	654-4116	Lusk	334-2252
Arapahoe	856-9333	Moorcroft	746-8733
Basin	568-2914	Mountain View	782-6601
Big Piney	276-5415	Newcastle	746-4560
Buffalo	684-9271	Pinedale	367-6306
Casper	235-5097	Powell	754-2864
Cheyenne	632-2991	Rawlins	324-9656
Cody	527-7784	Riverton (0-3)	856-4246
Douglas	358-3901	Riverton (3-5)	856-4337
Evanston	789-7384	Rock Springs	352-6871
Fort Washakie	332-3516	Saratoga	326-5839
Gillette	682-2392	Sheridan	672-6610
Glenrock	436-5357	Shoshoni	876-2551
Green River	872-3290	Sundance	283-2526
Guernsey	836-2838	Thayne	883-4116
Hulett	467-5727	Thermopolis	864-9227
Jackson	733-3791	Torrington	532-7068
Kemmerer	877-6984	Upton	468-2200
Laramie	742-6374	Wheatland	322-3385
Lander	332-5508	Worland	347-8677



- Wyoming EHDl Program: 721-6212
- Wyoming Department of Health, Behavioral Health Division: 777-6494
- Your child's healthcare provider

Where can I get more information on hearing loss?

- [www.wyomingehdi.org](http://www.wyomingehdi.org)
- [www.babyhearing.org](http://www.babyhearing.org)
- [www.infantheating.org](http://www.infantheating.org)

## Wyoming Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDl) Program



Hearing loss can happen at any time... from before birth to adulthood.

### What is hearing loss in children?

Hearing loss can vary greatly among children and can be caused by many different things.

Many children experience mild, temporary hearing loss when fluid is in the middle ear from allergies or colds. Sometimes as a result of an ear infection, fluid stays in the middle ears. This may cause hearing loss and delay your child's speech and language development.

Some children have permanent hearing loss. This can range from mild (they don't hear as well as you do) to complete (they can't hear anything at all).



The signs and symptoms of hearing loss are different for different children. If you notice any of the things below, consult your child's healthcare provider, a public health nurse, or your local child development center.

- Does not turn to the source of a sound by 3 to 4 months of age.
- Pays attention to vibrating noises or noises that can be felt rather than heard.
- Does not say single words, such as "dada" or "mama" by 1 year of age.
- Turns their head when s/he sees you, but not if you only call out their name. This is commonly mistaken as not paying attention or ignoring you; however, it could be the result of a partial hearing loss.
- Hears some sounds but not others.

### What are some signs of hearing loss?

It is not easy to tell if your child has a hearing loss. Below is an example of how hearing loss affects your child's ability to hear speech.

Normal hearing:	Freddie thought he should find a whistle.
Mild hearing loss:	Freddie though_ _e _hould _ind a whi_tle.
Moderate hearing loss:	_reddie _ough_ _e _ould _i_ a _i_le.
Severe hearing loss:	_e_ie _ou__ _e _ou_ _i_ a _i_le.
Profound hearing loss:	LOUDsoft LOUD soft soft LOUD soft LOUDsoft.

- Family history of hearing loss.
- Head, face, or ears shaped or formed in a different way than usual.
- Injury to the head that required medical care.
- Exposed to infection before birth.
- Ear infections with fluid that lasts more than four months.
- Spent 48 hours or more in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.
- Infection around the brain or spinal cord caused by bacteria (Bacterial Meningitis).
- Neurological disorder that is associated with hearing loss (check with your healthcare provider).
- Jaundice (hyperbilirubinemia) as a newborn that required a special procedure, such as an exchange transfusion).
- You are worried about your child's hearing.



Listed above are risk factors often associated with infant and childhood hearing loss. If you check one or more of the boxes, your child may be at risk for a hearing loss.