**HEARING SCREENING FOR CHILDREN**

Hearing is important for:

* Children’s social and emotional growth
* Learning oral language
* Learning to talk, read and write

It is important to find hearing problems early so kids can get the help they need to do well. Hearing loss can be hard to notice. Sometimes, mild hearing loss is mistaken with other concerns.

Hearing can also change over time. Some hearing problems in young children are temporary or can be treated by a doctor. If you think your child is having trouble hearing, get their hearing tested – even if they passed a hearing test before.

**At School: Kindergarten Hearing Screening**

Each year, Public Health staff conduct hearing screening for kindergarten students at school.

**Island Health Hearing Clinic**

Parents can call the clinic directly to book a hearing screening for children from birth to 19 years old. No referral is needed.

For referral forms and to learn more about the program:

* <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/children-youth-services/hearing-program>
* Contact your nearest Public Health Hearing Clinic
  + Victoria 250-388-2250
  + West Shore 250-519-3490
  + Nanaimo 250-755-6269
  + Courtenay 250-331-8526

For more information:

* HealthLink BC – [Hearing loss in children](https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/hearing-loss-children)