

# Questions you May Want to Ask Your Child's Medical Professional



Names of Medical Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Next Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Medical professionals are trained to diagnose and treat medical conditions in people. Examples include pediatricians, family physicians, primary care doctors, and nurse practitioners. Your child's medical professional oversees your child's overall growth, health, and development. You might see your child's medical professional in an office, clinic, or hospital.

This person will coordinate all areas of your child's medical care. In addition to receiving routine care, a child with hearing loss may need to see specialists who will look at the child's specific health needs. These specialists may look at eyes, language or speech needs, genetics, or other areas. Your child's medical professional will help decide which specialists your child should see and when to see them. In this way, your child will receive coordinated care by all of his or her medical professionals.

For more information about children's hearing visit [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss)



**This model of working together is sometimes referred to as a 'medical home'.**



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

If you have questions or concerns about the care your child receives, you may want to schedule a longer appointment. The following questions can help you better understand your child's condition and the type of care he or she may receive.

## Questions about medical services for my child:

1. Do you know why my child has hearing loss? Could my child's hearing loss be related to any other medical conditions? Could it be genetic?
2. Will my child need more tests because of the hearing loss? For example, brain scans (CT, MRI) or blood or urine tests? What will these tests tell you about my child's hearing loss?
3. Are there other specialists knowledgeable about childhood hearing loss my child should see?
4. How do I get referrals to see other specialists if my child needs their services (e.g., speech, audiology, ENT, genetic, ophthalmology)? To get the referrals, do I need an appointment with you first or can I request them by calling your office?
5. If I have problems with the referrals, or if my insurance company has questions, what should I do? Can your office help me?
6. Have you received any reports about my child's hearing loss (for example, from audiology, ENT)?
7. How do we ensure other specialists' reports will be shared with you? Will I get copies of other specialists' reports?
8. What is a "medical home"?
9. Are there any medications that can harm my child's hearing?
10. Will ear infections or fluid in the ears affect my child's hearing loss? Should the condition be treated differently because of my child's hearing loss?
11. Will you need to see my child more often because of the hearing loss? How often?
12. Other than my child's hearing loss, do you have other concerns about my child's development? Is his or her development on target?
13. Can you tell me about early intervention services that are available in my area?
14. Do you know of any additional community resources or support groups?

## Your medical professional may send your child to some or all of the following specialists:

**Ophthalmologist:** A doctor who specializes in eyes.

**Otolaryngologist:** A doctor who specializes in the ear, nose, and throat. This professional is often called an ear, nose and throat doctor or ENT.

**Geneticist:** A professional who specializes in genetics and the different medical conditions (including hearing loss) that might be related to genetics.

**Audiologist:** A professional trained to test hearing.

**Speech-language pathologist:** A professional trained to test and work with children with speech and language problems.

**Early intervention provider:** A person who provides support services for families and children from birth to 3 years of age, who have or are at risk for developmental delays.

Please see our other tip cards for information about some of these professionals.