

Childhood Hearing Loss Question Prompt List (QPL) for Parents

Many parents have questions or concerns about their child's hearing loss that they want to discuss with their audiologist. During busy clinic visits, parents may forget to ask their questions. Parents like you helped create this question sheet to help parents get the information and support they are looking for. The questions on this list are organized by topic. Some questions may matter more to you than others.

If you find it helpful, you can use this list to help you remember what to ask. For today's appointment, circle 2-3 questions that interest you most, or write down your own questions before your clinic visit. We hope you use this list for each appointment to make sure we eventually discuss all of your concerns.

I. Our Child's Diagnosis

1. What kind of hearing loss does my child have?
2. Why does my child react to some sounds?
3. Are there tools to help me and others experience what hearing is like for my child?
4. Will my child's hearing get better/worse over time?
5. Do hearing aids fix hearing loss in the way glasses fix vision problems?
6. How do you and my family decide what technology, if any, is right for my child?
7. Is it likely that my child's speech will be affected?
8. We often feel overwhelmed with the decisions we have to make. Can you help us prioritize these decisions?
9. Are there related medical concerns I should know about?
10. Why is it recommended that we see a geneticist?
11. I'm finding it hard to come to terms with the diagnosis and what it might mean for my child and family. How can I get support?

II. Family Concerns

12. How can I share the importance of hearing devices with family and others?
13. What resources are there to help us pay for our child's hearing needs?
14. What can we do at home to encourage our child's communication development?
15. What resources are there to build children's confidence, resilience, social skills?
16. If we want to learn sign language, how/where do we start?
17. What are some effective ways to get my child's attention and communicate?
18. What should I be looking for at home to know if my child is making appropriate progress?

III. Management of Devices

19. How much should my child use his/her hearing devices?
20. How do I take care of the hearing devices?
21. What strategies do parents use to keep the devices on a child's ears?
22. What do we do if the hearing aids stop working?
23. How can I encourage my child to feel confident about using hearing devices?
24. Will it take a while for my child to get used to his/her hearing aids?
25. Should we take the hearing aids off when our child naps, breastfeeds, etc?
26. When the hearing aids are touched, does the feedback noise bother our child?

IV. Support Systems, Now and in the Future

27. I'd like to talk to other people in our situation. How can I meet other parents with children with a hearing loss, and/or adults who are deaf or hard-of-hearing?
28. What agencies are available to help our family?
29. If I wanted support from a social worker or family counselor, how would I obtain a referral?
30. How can I help our childcare provider support our child's communication needs?
31. Do children with my child's level of hearing typically go to their local school?
32. What kind of help will my child need if he/she wants to participate in sports, music, and other activities?