

## To Screen or Not to Screen

### NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

Up to 4 out of 1000 babies with no known risk factors are born with a hearing loss. The incidence increases with 4-6% when risk factors are present.

90% of deaf babies are born into families with no history of hearing loss.

The average age of identification of hearing loss is approximately 2.5 years and in some cases even as late as 6 years.

If a hearing loss is identified before the age of 6 months and the appropriate treatment is provided the child has a much better chance to cope in a mainstream educational setting. It is therefore recommended that a hearing screening assessment is performed on all babies after birth.



### SCHOOL SCREENING

Due to the high prevalence of middle ear infection in young children, it is important that a child's hearing is screened annually. Children who suffer from middle ear infection may struggle to participate in daily classroom activities and are at risk for developing academic delays.

The signs and symptoms of Auditory Processing Difficulties (what your brain does with what you hear) also become more noticeable in an academic context and may even be related to a history of middle ear infection.

As a result it is recommended that a child's hearing is screened in Grade R or whenever a teacher and/or parent expresses concern regarding the child's hearing.





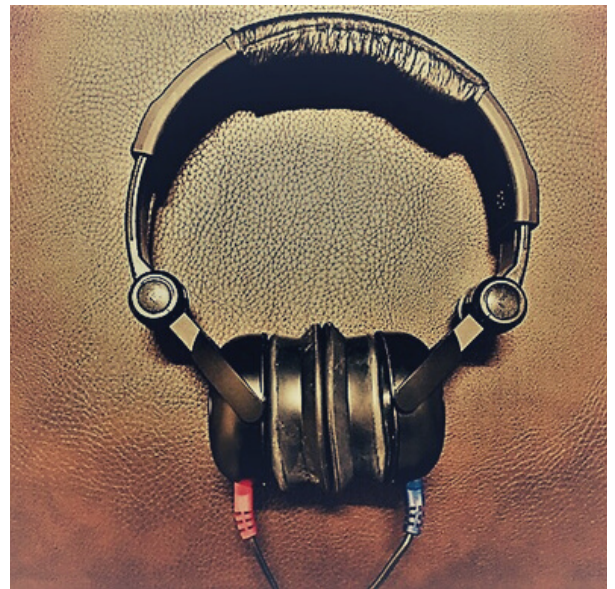
## INDUSTRIAL HEARING SCREENING

Noise Induced Hearing loss is one of the most common, preventable, occupational health diseases. Exposure to loud noise of 85dB or more over prolonged periods may result in permanent hearing loss and tinnitus. It is important that employees who work in noise zones or with any equipment louder than a hairdryer or lawn mower should have their hearing screened regularly.

## WHEN IS SCREENING NOT ENOUGH?

When any of the above screening tests or a self test for hearing loss indicates the possibility of a hearing loss it is recommended that an individual is seen for a COMPREHENSIVE hearing assessment performed by an Audiologist.

A comprehensive hearing assessment allows the Audiologist to determine whether a hearing loss is temporary, permanent and/or requires further intervention. Furthermore it enables the Audiologist to decide on the best possible treatment for the patient. This may entail; the fitting of hearing aids, a Cochlear Implant, the use of hearing protection and/or referral to another professional.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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*We are hear for you!*