

Hearing & Children

- **EARS NEVER STOP WORKING:** they never get a rest. Even months before birth, babies can hear their mothers' heartbeats.
- **HEARING** is critical to your child's safety. Hearing is important to the development of speech, listening, learning and social skills.
- **CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED** to a variety of noise sources, especially if involved in band, automotive or shop classes.
- **HEARING LOSS** can happen at any age. A growing number of children and adolescents are damaging their hearing by exposure to noise.
- **A RECENT NATIONAL STUDY** estimates that approximately 12% of all children ages 6 to 19 years have noise-induced hearing loss.



Noise can cause permanent hearing loss that cannot be restored. Noise-induced hearing loss can be **PREVENTED!**

How Noise Hurts Ears

Exposure to loud sounds may cause **permanent physical damage to your hearing**, just like heat causes a burn or a sharp object causes a cut. You can't see or feel the damage from noise, but it can be measured on hearing tests.

Inside our inner ears are thousands of tiny hair cells that send hearing signals to the brain. These hair cells act like the blades of grass in your lawn — if you walk across them too much or stomp on them too hard, they will eventually bend, break and die out. Listening to loud sounds too long or at high volume will damage these irreplaceable delicate hair cells.



Childhood Noise Risks

Noise levels of some toys and children's activities are loud enough to cause permanent hearing loss. Noise can damage hearing with long-term exposure to sound levels at or above 85 dBA SPL (typical lawnmower loudness). Even brief exposure to very loud sounds can result in permanent hearing loss. You should be concerned if your child is exposed to loud noises from:

- **Toys**
- **Personal Stereos**
- **Sporting Events**
- **Band Class**
- **Motorbikes**
- **Farm Equipment**
- **Movie Theaters**
- **Shop Class**
- **Arcades**
- **Concerts**
- **Firearms**
- **Firecrackers**
- **Jobs**
- **Power Tools**

