

Fun facts about hearing loss

Aussie Deaf Kids aims to empower parents and families raising a child with hearing loss through online support, information and advocacy. Here are some interesting facts about hearing loss in children:

- **Newborn hearing screening helps identify babies with hearing loss soon after birth.**
- **About one to two in every thousand babies are affected.**
- **Babies who are diagnosed early and start wearing hearing aids and attending early intervention by 6 months of age have similar speech and language outcomes as hearing children when they start school.**
- **Most children born with a hearing loss will benefit from hearing aids.**
- **Around 10 percent of children with a severe to profound loss will benefit from a cochlear implant.**
- **Hearing aids and cochlear implants are not like glasses – they don't simply "correct" hearing in the way glasses correct vision. They assist the child to hear and develop speech and language.**
- **The main priority for parents is usually to communicate with their child by whatever means best suits their child and family.**
- **Communication options can include spoken language, sign language, or a mix of both.**
- **Many families whose child has a hearing loss speak and sign to their child.**
- **Young babies start to communicate their needs using sounds and gestures.**
- **Many children with hearing loss develop some level of lip-reading ability because of their increased reliance on visual cues for communication.**

