

Little kids with listening problems may:

not talk much

**use actions
or point
more**

**take longer
to tell things**

**need people
to call out loud
to get their
attention**

**like to do
things their
own way**

**sit close
to music
or TV**

**be hard to
understand**



Kids should see a health practitioner to check their ears if they are doing lots of these things.

Behavioural Indicators of Hearing Loss

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*We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of
this country – past and present.*



By LOOKING AFTER EARS AND HEARING

Difficult to identify ear disease and hearing loss

- Disease of often asymptomatic
- Indigenous children often do not complain about pain
- It is often difficult to explain importance of ear disease to families.
 - hard to know disease is happening
 - Impacts of disease mostly happen later



Social indicators of ear disease/ hearing loss

- Social difficulties found to be the best indicator of hearing loss among school age Indigenous children in NSW.
- Indigenous families clever observers of social interaction
- Indigenous families are very concerned about children's social participation and social development.



What we did

- First we asked families of children with a history of ear disease and hearing loss what things they noticed about what their children did when they were younger. We made a long list of these.
- Then we did tympanometry and hearing tests with young indigenous in childcare.
- At the same time we asked childcare workers and families questions from the list about what children did that may show they had a ear disease or hearing loss.



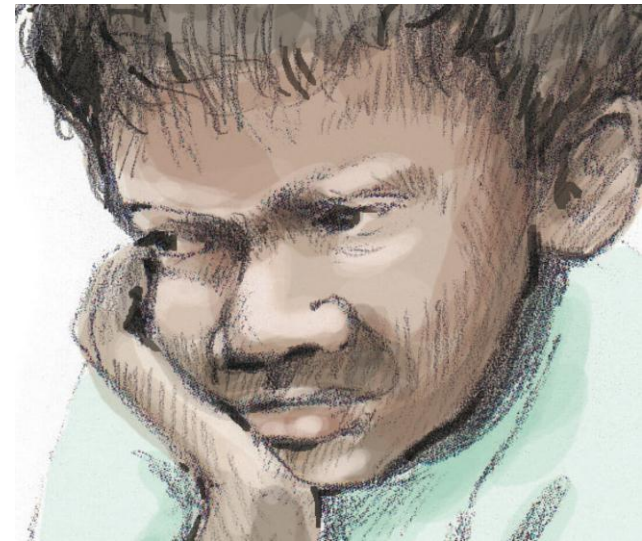
What we found

- We picked the seven best indicators of when young Indigenous children in childcare had abnormal tympanometry and hearing loss were.



The best indicators were when children did these things

- Not talk much
- Use actions or point more
- Take longer to tell things
- Need people to call out to get their attention
- Like to do things their own way
- Sit close to music or TV
- Be hard to understand



How are these indicators useful

- Child care workers awareness of these indicators can
 - Talk to families about going to health centers to kids kids ears checked.
 - Let childcare workers know it is important do things to prevent the spread of disease.



Wash

Wash hands and faces to stop germs from spreading.





Show

- ✓ Kids watch more when their ears don't work well
- ✓ Show and tell them things
- ✓ Use pointing, actions and sign language
- ✓ Do more helping, less 'growling'

Minimise impact of hearing loss

- Awareness that a child may have hearing loss can help adults caring for children to use compensatory communication strategies.

Help to have better communication and foster language development



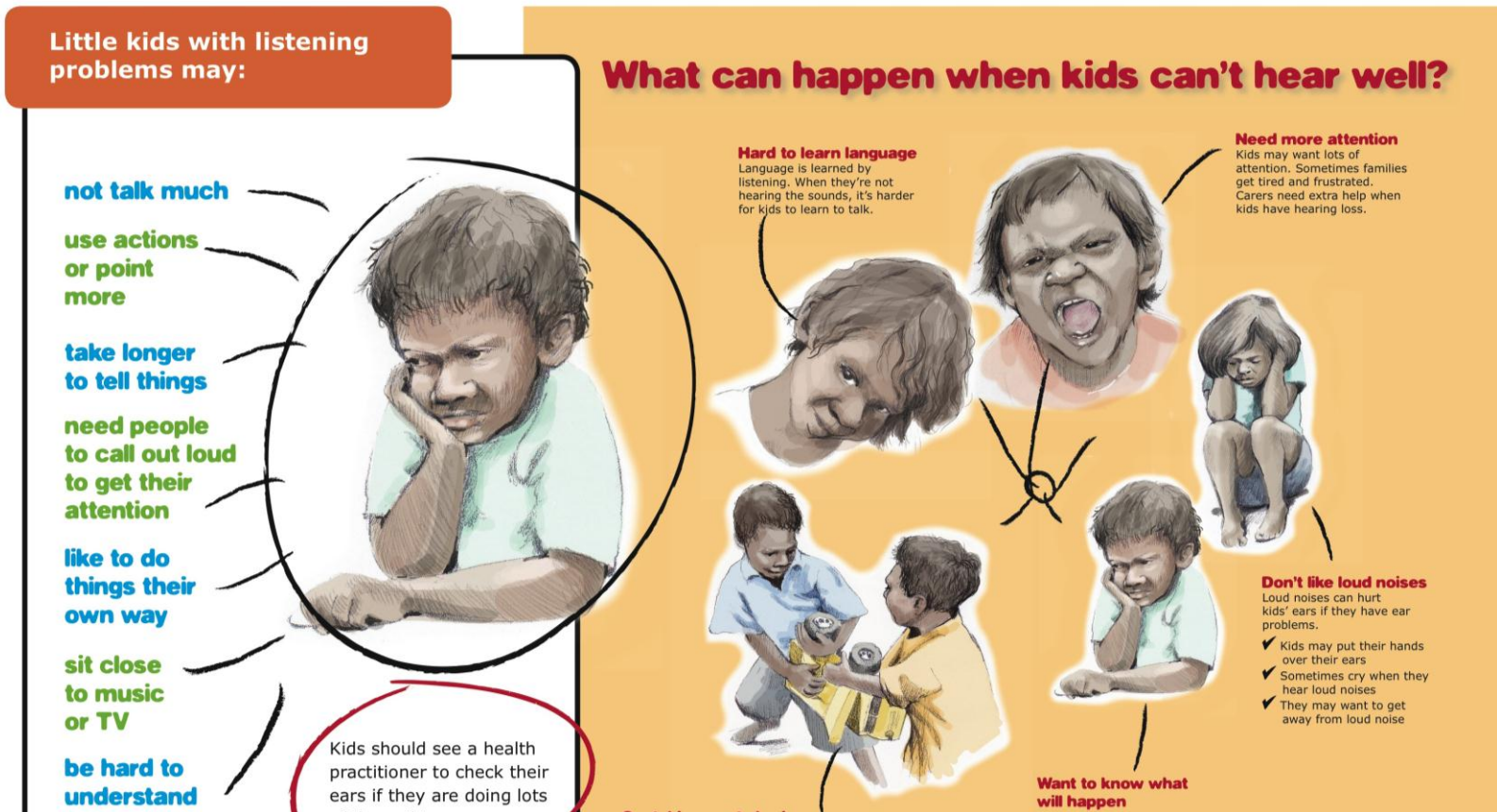
Talk More

Kids hear you better when:

- ✓ It is quiet
- ✓ You are talking just with them
- ✓ They are not distracted by other things
- ✓ You repeat things they don't understand
- ✓ You talk about things they are interested in

There are resources available

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For more information and resources based on this research contact damien@phoenixconsulting.com.au

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