



H.E.A.R. CHECKLIST

Indicators Associated with Hearing Loss

Children and youth who have any of the following history are of greater concern for potential hearing loss. **Bolded items are of greatest concern for potential permanent hearing loss.**

H: Health

- Large number of episodes of ear infections, PE tubes, or ear surgeries
- Problems during pregnancy or delivery
- Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU) stay of five or more days
- Prolonged mechanical ventilation (5 days or longer)**
- Hyperbilirubinemia requiring exchange transfusion
- Congenital infections known or suspected to be associated with hearing loss (i.e. toxoplasmosis, syphilis, rubella, **cytomegalovirus (CMV)**, and herpes)
- Bacterial meningitis**
- Head trauma, especially basal skull/temporal bone fractures**
- Diagnosed or suspected neurodegenerative disorders such as Hunter syndrome, Friedreich ataxia, and Charcot-Marie-Tooth syndrome**
- Exposure to ototoxic medications (gentamicin, tobramycin, chemotherapy) or loop diuretics (Furosemide/Lasix)**
- Family history of permanent childhood or early-onset hearing loss**

E: Education

- Delayed in speech, language, or phonics development
- Difficulty following directions (watches others for cues; relies on vision heavily)
- Failing grades or retention

A: Appearance

- Outer ear abnormalities such as those that involve the pinna, ear canal, ear tags, ear pits, and temporal bone anomalies
- Craniofacial anomalies, including cleft lip and cleft palate
- Syndromes associated with hearing loss or progressive or late-onset hearing loss, such as of Usher's, Waardenburg, Alport, Pendred, and Jervell and Lange-Nielson**

R: Report

- Teacher or caregiver reports concerns regarding hearing**
- Teacher or caregiver reports concern regarding behavior or attention
- Caregiver or student reports regular engagement in noise-hazardous activities
- Student reports tinnitus or ringing in the ears

HEAR Checklist Additional Comments:
