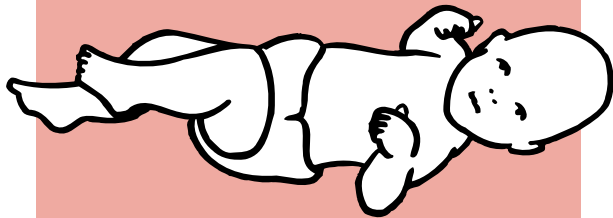


## Added Treatment

Many children have an ear infection more than once. Some have an infection that lasts a long time.

- Your child may need to see a doctor who is an Ear, Nose and Throat specialist. Sometimes the specialist will suggest that the child have a small tube put in the eardrum. This tube will help air get to the middle ear so that fluid will not build up.
- Some children may need extra help from the teacher. Even a small loss of hearing makes it harder for a child to learn.
- Hearing should be checked again to make sure it is back to normal.



**Even very young babies can have hearing tests.**

## Hearing Tests

Free hearing tests for **Vancouver residents aged 0 - 19 years** at the Audiology Centre for 3rd floor, 999 West Broadway, Vancouver.

Call 604-659-1100 to make an appointment.

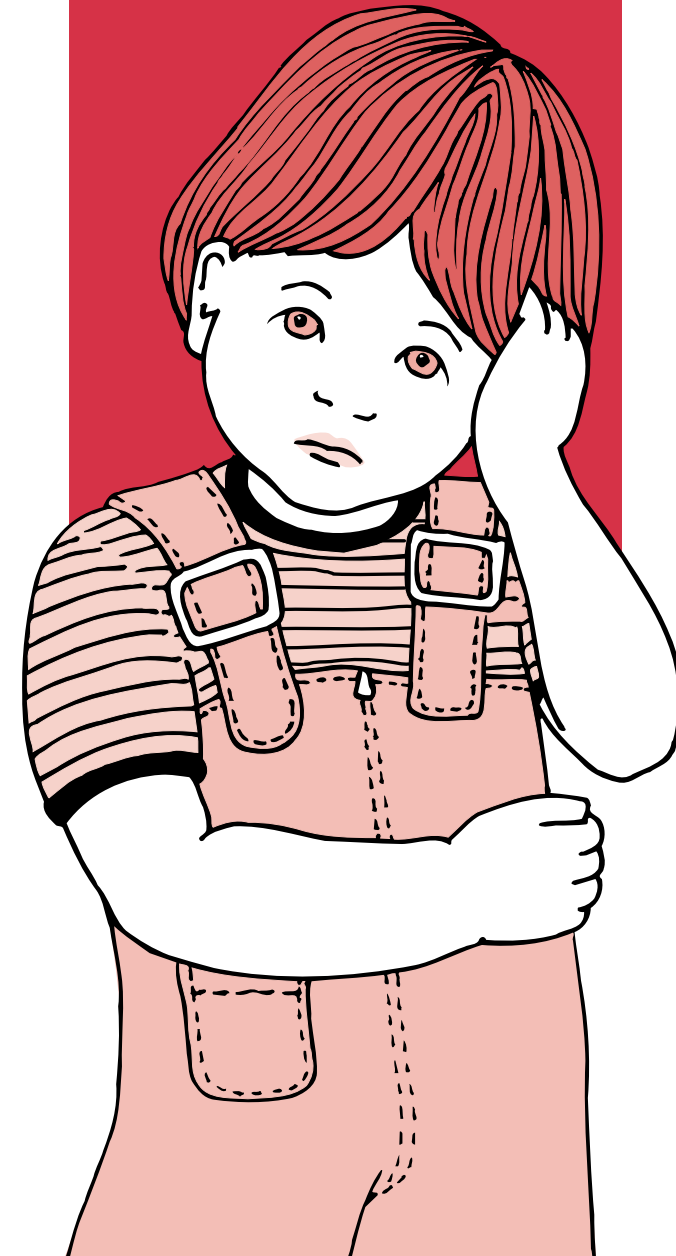


**Vancouver Coastal Health**  
*Promoting wellness. Ensuring care.*

For more copies, go online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca> or email [pchem@vch.ca](mailto:pchem@vch.ca) and quote Catalogue No. **FL300.M53**  
© Vancouver Coastal Health, October 2008

The information in this document is intended solely for the person to whom it was given by the health care team.  
[www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

# Middle Ear Problems



## Middle Ear Problems

There is a circle around part of the ear in the picture below. This part of the ear is called the middle ear. Sometimes fluid builds up in the middle ear just behind the ear drum. The fluid may become infected. It can also cause a loss of hearing. These problems of the middle ear are called Otitis Media.

**Middle Ear problems are very common.  
80-90% of children will have middle ear problems at least once.**

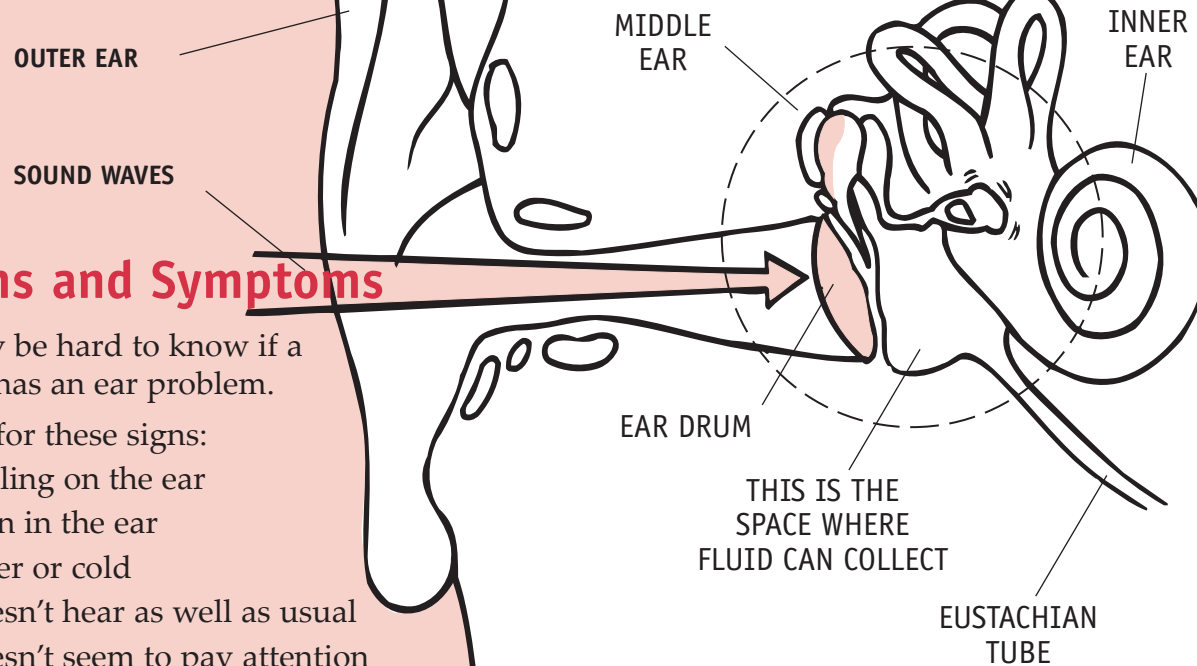
## Signs and Symptoms

It may be hard to know if a child has an ear problem.

Look for these signs:

- pulling on the ear
- pain in the ear
- fever or cold
- doesn't hear as well as usual
- doesn't seem to pay attention
- starts to speak later than other children
- behaviour problems
- irritability or crankiness

(Not all children have the same symptoms)



## PARTS OF THE EAR

## Treatment

- See a doctor right away if you think your child has an ear infection.
- An infected ear can usually be treated with medicine from your doctor.
- See a doctor again after taking all of the medicine. It is important to make sure the fluid or infection is gone.
- A child with a middle ear problem may need a hearing test. The test will show if there is any hearing loss, and if the middle ear is working properly.
- The best person to see for a hearing test is called an Audiologist. They are trained to test young children's hearing.

Treatment is important to prevent ongoing problems.

**A hearing loss in children makes it hard to learn and develop normal speech.**