SNIPPETS

Simple and Informative
Parent to Parent
Education Tools

# Recommended Tests

- When a child is diagnosed as Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) it is recommended by the Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH) that they have evaluations with other professionals to rule out other disorders associated with hearing loss.
  These professional evaluations can include visits with a genetic counselor, cardiologist, neurologist, ophthalmologist, etc.

- Genetics is the study of genes, what they are and how they work. Genes are how we inherit features or traits from our ancestors; for example, children usually look like their parents because they have inherited their parents' genes.

- At a genetics appointment/evaluation families may work with a genetic counselor or a geneticist where they will discuss family history of illnesses or syndromes, have a discussion of the child's hearing loss, and may draw blood from parents and the child who is D/HH for testing.

- Genetic evaluations can provide families with information on cause of hearing loss, whether the hearing loss is expected to progress, other possible disorders (e.g., renal, vision, cardiac), and likelihood of hearing loss in future offspring (or the offspring of close relatives).

- Sometimes, a genetic determination can also identify a particular syndrome that is also linked to other unrecognized medical conditions that require intervention.

- Studies have shown at least 50% of hearing loss diagnoses are hereditary.

- Every infant that is D/HH should have a regular evaluation by an ophthalmologist to determine if vision concerns exist and to rule out vision disorders, such as cataracts or Usher syndrome.

- An electrocardiogram is suggested for children who are profoundly deaf to identify a rare cardiac condition called Jervell and Lange-Nielsen syndrome, which can be very serious if undetected.

- Often the physician will order a CT scan and an MRI. The CT will look at the middle ear and the MRI will look at the inner ear and nerve.

- These tests can also help determine the cause of the hearing loss and recommendations for amplification.

Genetic Hearing Loss FAQ - My Baby's Hearing (babyhearing.org)

Genetics and Hearing Loss - Hearing Loss Association of America

A Parent's Guide to Genetics and Hearing Loss (cdc.gov)

Joint Commission for Infant Hearing 2019 Position Statement (usu.edu)

TEAM KENTUCKY
CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

PROJECT INSPIRED BY THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, THESE SNIPPETS WERE CREATED BY THE KENTUCKY EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION (EHDI) PROGRAM, SPONSORED IN PART BY THE HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION EHDI GRANT.
INFORMATION EXPRESSED HERE IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AUTHORS AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE FUNDING SOURCE.