



A FAMILY'S GUIDE TO Conductive Hearing Differences

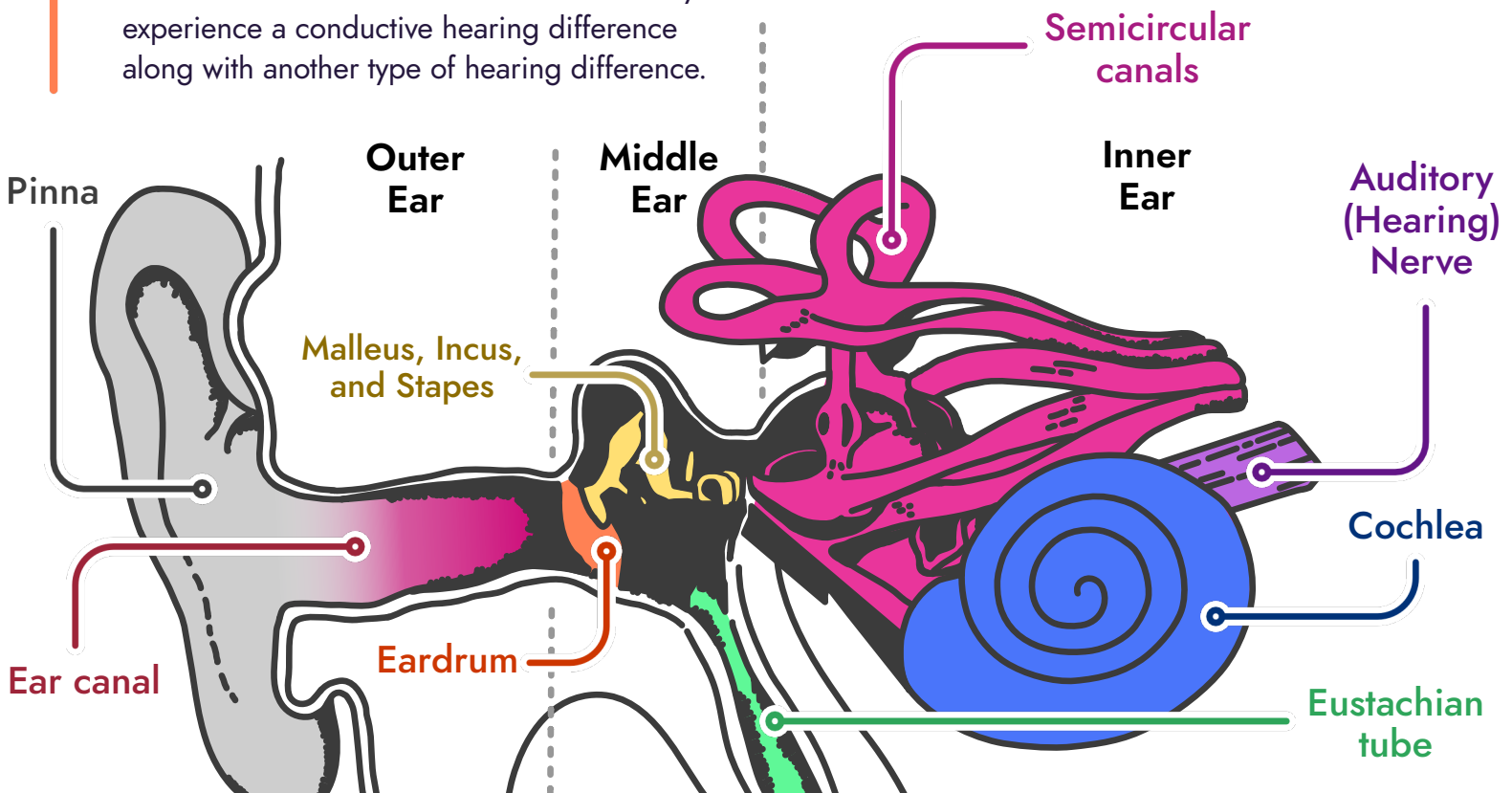
? What are conductive hearing differences?

There are three parts of the ear: the outer, middle, and inner ear. Conductive hearing difference is a type of hearing difference that occurs when there is an interruption in how sound passes through to the inner ear.

Conductive hearing differences can be temporary or permanent. Many children experience temporary conductive hearing loss when they have an ear infection or middle ear fluid. Permanent conductive hearing differences are usually the result of structural differences in a child's outer and/or middle ear, or chronic ear infections. Some children may experience a conductive hearing difference along with another type of hearing difference.

What is bone conduction?

Bone conduction refers to the way in which sound can travel through the skull to reach the inner ear. This is different from air conduction, where sound can travel through the outer and middle ear before reaching the inner ear. Bone conduction hearing testing can be used to show if the outer or middle ear interrupts the sound as it travels through the auditory system to the brain.





What are the causes of conductive hearing differences?

The following is a list of common causes of conductive hearing differences. There are many causes of conductive hearing differences, which are not all listed here.

“Temporary”, fluctuating, or persistent conductive hearing differences:

- Middle ear fluid
- Recurrent ear infections
- Earwax blockage

Permanent conductive hearing differences—structural differences in the outer/middle ear including:

- Microtia/Atresia
- Ear trauma
- Recurrent untreated ear infections
- Enlarged Vestibular Aqueduct Syndrome (EVAS)

Find more resources at:
[earliestinteractions.com](https://www.earliestinteractions.com)



How do we identify conductive hearing differences?



Conductive hearing differences are best identified by an audiologist. There are a variety of tests used to help determine the type of hearing difference that someone has. Hearing levels can be tested using two different types of headphones. Your child’s audiologist can use the information gathered from testing using the two types of headphones to determine if your child has a conductive hearing difference. In addition, a test called tympanometry can be used to detect any fluid or other differences in middle ear function that can impact hearing.

What is the treatment for conductive hearing differences?



Children with conductive hearing differences will be referred to their primary care provider or an ear, nose, and throat (ENT) physician, also known as an otolaryngologist, who will determine the best course of treatment.

For some children, hearing technology might be recommended to support their listening needs. Your child’s audiologist will discuss their recommendations with you, if your child is a candidate.