



How does having unilateral vs. bilateral hearing loss affect children differently?

Unilateral

- Before Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, the average age of identification was 4-5 years as children often don't show difficulty until school¹
- Often have worse language learning outcomes with a single cochlear implant²
- Generally use amplification less consistently which could help account for the worse language outcomes¹

Bilateral

- Even before newborn screening, these children were identified earlier and more often in home environments¹
- Often have better language learning outcomes with two cochlear implants²
- Generally use amplification more consistently which helps with language learning¹

Regardless of type, early identification of and intervention for hearing loss is crucial for children to develop communication skills!

1. Fitzpatrick, E., Grandpierre, V., Durieux-Smith, A., Gaboury, I., Coyle, D., Na, E., & Sallam, N. (2015). Children with mild bilateral and unilateral hearing loss: Parents' reflections on experiences and outcomes. *Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education*, 21(1), 34-43. <https://doi.org/10.1093/deafed/env047>

2. Sarant, J., Harris, D., Bennet, L., & Bant, S. (2014). Bilateral versus unilateral cochlear implants in children. *Ear & Hearing*, 35(4), 396-409. <https://doi.org/10.1097/aud.0000000000000022>