



Unilateral Hearing Loss



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



vs



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!

References

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2. Sarant, J., Harris, D., Bennet, L., & Bant, S. (2014). Bilateral versus unilateral cochlear implants in children. *Ear & Hearing*, 35(4), 396–409.

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