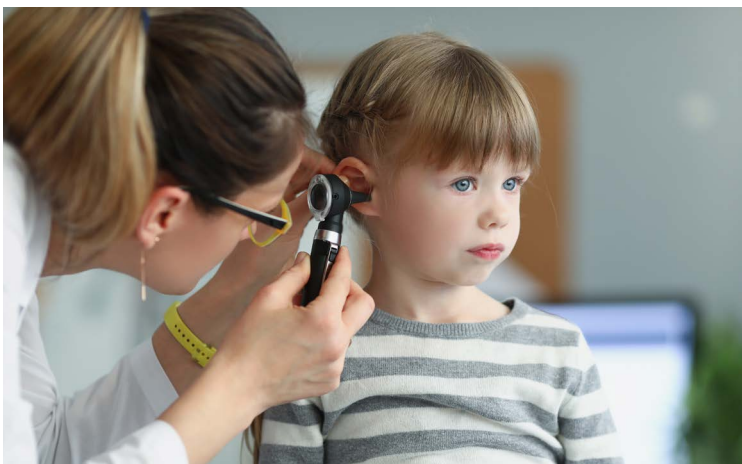


# Genetics of Hearing Loss

## EARLY HEARING DETECTION AND INTERVENTION (EHDI)



### What causes hearing loss?

Hearing loss has various causes in both infants and adults. At least 25% of hearing loss in babies is due to an environmental cause (like injury or a virus) and 50% to 60% have a genetic cause (CDC, 2023). Sometimes, both genetics and environment can cause hearing loss. The cause is not always possible to find, but for parents or caregivers, trying to find the cause can make a difference in helping the child grow and develop.

### How do I know if the cause is genetic?

Ask your baby's primary care provider about a referral for a genetic evaluation. Even if you do not have any family members who are deaf and hard of hearing, the cause of your baby's hearing loss could be genetic. If you do have other family members who are deaf and hard of hearing, you should tell your baby's health care provider.

### Why is knowing if the cause is genetic important?

Your baby's hearing loss could be one part of a larger condition affecting their health or development. A genetic evaluation can help guide what future care decisions you make, like how to communicate with your baby and what interventions or educational tools will help them learn and grow. This knowledge is a valuable resource for tailoring your approach to meet your child's specific needs.

