

Audiograms Explained

Why do you need to see a child's audiogram?

Below is an audiogram of familiar sounds with a grey "speech banana" showing where important English speech sounds are typically heard. When hearing is clinically tested, responses are plotted on a chart like this. At least 5 different frequencies are usually indicated, with lines drawn to connect them. Here is a sample of someone's audiogram who has NORMAL hearing levels. (The lines are hardly ever straight – they tend to rise and fall.) Now consider someone whose hearing is at or below the speech banana – they may hear some sounds, but not others...it can be confusing. That's why the audiogram of someone with HEARING LOSS is so important. At a quick glance, we see which sounds they can probably hear, and which sounds they can NOT hear. And amplification may help, or may not. Viewing an audiogram WITH amplification in place gives us a much better idea. We can't assume!

