

Dear Parents,

Thank you for participating in our project, Listening Abilities of Individuals with Down Syndrome, with the Pediatric Auditory Development Lab at Vanderbilt University! We now better understand the listening abilities of children with Down syndrome because of the time you took to volunteer! This is the first study we know of that has looked at the benefits of listening with two ears for individuals with Down syndrome.



The findings of our study suggest:

- Individuals with Down syndrome, even if they have normal hearing, have greater difficulty identifying sounds presented in noise than typically-developing individuals.
- The benefits of listening with two ears happen at older ages in some circumstances for children with Down syndrome relative to typically-developing children, but we can expect to see improvement with age. Adults with Down syndrome and typically-developing adults experience similar benefits when listening with two ears in some circumstances.
- In order to achieve best performance in poor listening conditions, children with Down syndrome may require signals of interest, like speech, to be louder in noisy backgrounds than typically-developing children.

We are grateful that you volunteered your time to participate in our study! Please feel free to contact us if you have additional questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

**Heather Porter**

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