

MINEOLA AMERICAN (NYC  
MARKET AREA)

MINEOLA, NY  
WEEKLY 17,500  
MAR 12 2008



B Burrelles *Case*

393 .22830  
v....

1 XX43..

## Mill Neck Audiology Offers Advanced Testing for Recurrent Ear Infections

Did you know that congestion, cold weather and allergies can contribute to recurrent ear infections? While very rare for an adult, infections do affect children, especially those regularly involved in swimming activities. "Recurrent ear infections are important to rectify. Children who suffer from them typically have delayed speech and language development," said Tanya Linzalone, director of the Mildred and Frank Feinberg Community Center for Hearing Health at Mill Neck Audiology.

As children usually begin to speak and understand others at an early age, their quality of life depends largely on hearing. According to the Better Hearing Institute, an 18-month-old child can speak 20 to 50 words and phrases, a 24-month-old child has a spoken vocabulary of 200-300 words and a child between three and five-years-old is able to speak 1000-2000 words. Linzalone said, "If your child is over a year old and is not yet speaking, it's time to question what may be going on."

Although ear infection symptoms are initially difficult to identify, they include a baby repeatedly rubbing or pulling its ear, or a child's ear that is noticeably warm to the touch. Some kids, however, show no signs of discomfort. Linzalone suggests that parents with children who have persistent ear infections should visit Mill Neck Audiology for a complete audiologic evaluation.

"Our specialty is pediatrics," said Linzalone. The center offers a pediatric testing booth that enables advanced testing procedures. Set up in a double, sound-proof booth to accommodate both an audiologist and a child, the state-of-the-art pediatric testing area is suitable for kids. "Children can interact directly with the audiologist as both will be inside the pediatric booth, providing an extremely quiet and friendly area essential for the testing process," said Linzalone.

*Child Advoc*  
15309 AA

The center offers a pediatric testing booth that enables advanced testing procedures.

Once Mill Neck Audiology identifies ear congestion and/or a hearing loss, the center will then recommend a visit to a pediatrician or a pediatric ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist to treat the problem. An ENT may prescribe antibiotics or tubes, which in a year, will naturally fall out once the congestion has cleared. But, Linzalone cautioned, "time is of the essence and parents should act quickly so that speech and language delays don't occur."

Despite the frequency in which she diagnoses ear infections, Linzalone is hopeful that children will become more aware and protect their hearing. "Children who are involved in pool activities should get swim plugs. They are custom-made to fit the child's ear perfectly, so that any external water does not enter," she said. If you or someone you know is experiencing hearing difficulties, please call Mill Neck Audiology at (516) 922-4100, ext. 258.

In addition to Mill Neck Audiology, the Mill Neck Family of Organizations includes Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, established in 1951 to help deaf children unlock their potential through quality education, the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center, Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry, Mill Neck Services for Deaf Adults and Mill Neck Interpreter Service. For more information about any of these programs, please call (516) 922-4100 or visit <http://www.mill-neck.org>.