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Lakeshore Healthy Living Q&A

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Q Is Your Child Safe When Grandpa & Grandma Can't Hear?

Answer:

Finally! Your long-awaited romantic weekend getaway with your spouse is near. Reservations confirmed? Check. Dancing shoes packed? Check. Babysitter lined up? Check. Grandma and Grandpa, who better? Better recheck that babysitter before you head out the door. Before you hire a stranger, you are going to investigate them pretty carefully, aren't you? But your folks usually get a pass, even if they don't hear so well. After all, they love your kids and whose hearing isn't going downhill? The current statistics from the Better Hearing Institute are that one in six baby boomers have hearing loss and 3 in 10 of people over 65 have hearing loss; seniors in their 80's have greater than a 50% incidence of hearing loss. However, keep in mind that these statistics don't tell the whole story. Almost everyone knows at least one person who has a hearing loss that is affecting communications

but resolutely refuses to acknowledge or do anything about it. If your child's babysitter is one of the 24 million people who need hearing aids and don't have them, there could be serious problems. Effective caregivers need to be environmentally vigilant to assure the safety of your child; the ability to hear is a key component in assuring the safety of your child. The risks of not hearing a smoke or carbon monoxide detector, an intruder, or a child crying in the backyard could be fatal or result in injury. Spending too much time speech reading while driving can cause a crash, as can failing to hear a siren. Older children have been known to take advantage of an adult's hearing loss and get "permission" to do something the adult wouldn't agree to if they understood what the child said. Before heading out for that weekend, consider this: A 66-year-old man was aggravated that his wife dragged him in to a hearing evaluation, and decided that he did not need the amplification the audiologist recommended. (His wife just didn't talk right.) 18 months later he was back. While watching his three-year-old grandson, the child had opened the screen door

of the living room while his grandfather was there and wandered down the street. A neighbor found and returned him, and the family forced him to get his hearing checked and get amplification if he was ever again to sit with his beloved grandson. After reluctantly getting his hearing aids, he returned two days later, laughing and shaking his head. "What a fool I have been. This is not bad at all." To ensure the safety of your children or your grandchildren call Welsch Hearing Aid Company at 452-0213 or 1-800-924-2101 to schedule your FREE hearing test today! It is never to late to be safe. In addition to hearing aids we offer assistive listening devices like extra loud smoke alarms to help keep your loved ones safe. This article, written by Sergei Kochkin, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Better Hearing Institute, was used and modified with permission. Look forward to reading more on this subject next week.



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