



Speech and Hearing BC

What is an Audiologist?

An audiologist is a healthcare professional who is trained in communication disorders, including the physiology of speech and hearing organs, physics of sound, hearing loss, hearing loss prevention, aural rehabilitation, and treatment of hearing loss. Audiologists will typically complete a four-year university undergraduate degree, followed by a two- or three-year master's (graduate) degree. 'Dispensing' audiologists will have further specialized training in fitting and dispensing hearing aids. In order to practice in the province of BC, an audiologist must be a registrant with the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC (**CSHBC**).

WHEN SHOULD I SEE AN AUDIOLOGIST?

You should see an audiologist if you:

- have difficulty understanding speech in quiet or in the presence of background noise,
- have trouble following conversations one-to-one or in groups,
- find voices and sounds unclear or muffled,
- have difficulty hearing on the telephone, or
- need the volume louder than other people to hear the TV or radio.

If you have concerns regarding your child's hearing, and/or their speech and language development, then you should seek the services of an audiologist. Hearing can be tested as early as infancy.

HOW DO I FIND AN AUDIOLOGIST?

Check out our **Find a Professional** page for audiologists in public and private practice. You will find names and contact information as well as information about their areas of expertise.

www.speechandhearingbc.ca

