Deadly Ears

Ears, Hearing & Development
We would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this event is taking place. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.
All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the best opportunities for **strong hearing** to **yarn**, **learn** and **play**.
Reflections & Feedback

Before we get started…
• What do I already know about middle ear disease?
• How confident do I feel talking to parents about ear health?

On reflection…
• Let’s brain-storm ideas for your local community playgroup.
• Do you have any ideas or take away messages you want to share?
What we’ll discuss today:

• Middle ear disease
• Symptoms
• Impacts on development
• How we can help…
Middle ear disease

When the **middle** of the ear gets *blocked* or *infected*
What causes it?

- Ears are connected to the nose by a tube.
- Germs in the throat can get into the ear and make it sick.
- Ears can get blocked up with liquid/mucus (from a cold).
- If ears are blocked, air can’t get in & liquid can’t get out.
- This stops the ear from working and children might not be able to hear.
- If not treated, the ear drum can burst & leave a hole.
Symptoms:

- Signs of a cold
- Kids pulling ears
- Pain in ear
- Fever
- Runny fluid or pus
- Can’t hear properly
- Not eating
- Diarrhoea or vomiting
- Kids can have no symptoms!
Impacts

Strong Futures

Deadly Schooling

Solid Talking

Good Hearing

Healthy Ears

Helping little people to hear, talk, learn and play
Queensland Health's Statewide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ear Health Program

Queensland Government
How can we help?

~ Knowing ~ Doing ~ Sharing ~

Knowing:
• Symptoms & impacts on development

Doing:
• Prevention
• Activities – to get people talking about ear health

Sharing:
• Yarn with families
• Link with services
How can we help?

- Local services?
- Prevention ideas?
- Activities at playgroup?
- Yarning with parents about ears and hearing?

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Prevention ideas

- Getting kids ears checked
- Getting kids to blow their nose
- Up-to-date Vaccinations help
- Keeping hands and faces clean
- Kids eating healthy fruits and veges
- Breastfeeding helps fight infection
- Keeping smoke away from kids
- Don’t stick anything in kids ears

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Activities

• Yarning circles
• Craft activities
• Activities that promote development
• Let’s try one together…
Activities
Promoting development in activities

1. Be face to face
2. Yarn and listen
3. Respond
Yarning with families

Some ideas from Woorabinda facilitators:

“First you’ve gotta find a common ground with parents.”
“They need to know this is a safe place.”
“Let them know you’re happy to help.”
“You can speak up because of your professional role.”
“If you have experience (with ear disease), you can step out of your comfort zone.”
Activity – Soap Bunny

Instructions:
1. Get into groups of 2-3 people.
2. Choose one person to give the instructions.
3. The other person/people will make a soap bunny.
4. Everyone will wear a pair of ear-plugs.
5. The instructor will teach the other/s how to make the soap bunny while wearing ear plugs.
6. Then we’ll reflect on what it’s like talking and listening with blocked ears.
Activity – Soap Bunny

Reflections…
How can we help?

Local services?

Prevention ideas?

Activities at playgroup?

Yarning with parents about ears and hearing?
Brainstorming

What do you think you could do with your playgroup?

Prevention Ideas

Yarning with Parents

Linking with Services

Activities at Playgroup
Prevention Ideas for my playgroup...
Ideas for Yarning with Parents…
Linking with services in my community…

Do you already have connections with health services?

Do you have any new ideas for building connections?
Activities at Playgroup…

Would you be keen to try any ear & hearing health activities at your playgroup?
Feedback…

We would love to hear from you!

My take home messages about middle ear disease:

Favourite idea/s for my playgroup: