

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

Object in the Ear

What is it?

An object can get stuck in the ear canal. The most common objects that can become stuck in ears are erasers, beads, food, cotton, small batteries, and bugs.

Signs:

- The child tells an adult that he or she put something in the ear.
- You can see an object in the ear.
- You see the child put the object in the ear.
- The ear canal bleeds.
- The child complains of pain or buzzing in the ear.
- The child can't hear as well as before.

Do at home:

- Try to remove the object only one time.
 1. Have your child lie on his side on a bed or table with his head over the edge.
 2. Turn head so the ear with the object in it faces the floor.
 3. Gently wiggle the ear so the object to falls out.
- If a live bug is in the ear canal:
 1. Take the child into a very dark room.
 2. Hold a flashlight by the outer ear. The bug may walk toward the light and leave the ear canal.

- If the bug doesn't leave the ear, you will need to kill the bug to remove it.
Do not rinse out the bug if there is any fluid, pus, or blood coming from the ear.

1. Have your child sit up.
2. Put water in a bulb syringe.
Squirt the water in your child's ear to rinse the bug out of the ear canal.



You may use a bulb syringe and water to rinse a bug out of the ear, if your child does not have ear tubes or fluid coming from the ear.

- If your child does not have tubes in the ears, and you don't see any fluid, pus, or blood coming from the ear, you may use a bulb syringe and water to rinse the bug out of the ear.
- If your child has tubes in the ears or there is fluid, pus, or blood coming from the ear, call your child's doctor.

Call the doctor or clinic if:

- You tried to remove the object once, and it didn't come out.
- Blood is coming out of the ear canal.
- White or yellow fluid is coming from the ear.
- The ear is very swollen and purple-red in color.
- The ear or ear lobe is torn and bleeding.

You should know:

- Children between the ages of 2 to 4 are the most likely to put objects in the ear canal.
- Never put anything in the ear to remove an object. Tweezers or fingers usually push the object further in. This makes it harder for the doctor to get the object out of the ear, and more painful for your child.

Now that you've read this:

- Tell your nurse or doctor what you would do if your child had an object in the ear. (Check when done.)
- Tell your nurse or doctor when you need to call the doctor or clinic. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,
 call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-546-1400
866-933-6459
www.phoenixchildrens.com

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

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• Illustrated by Dennis Swain



The Emily Center

Object in the Ear

First Aid and Home Care

Si usted desea esta información en español,
por favor pídasela a su enfermero o doctor.

Name of Health Care Provider: _____ Number: 655

For office use: Date returned: _____ db nb

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No
If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes

No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

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Thank you for helping us!