

## GOOD HEARING IS IMPORTANT!

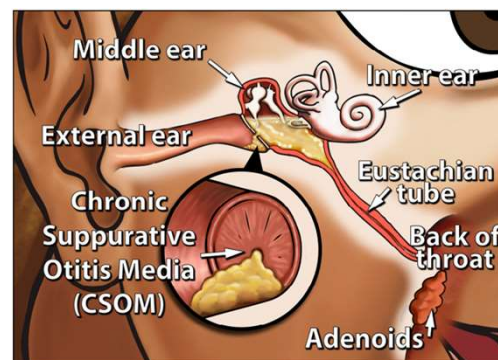
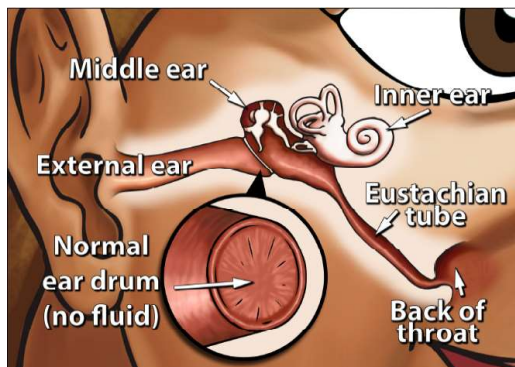
### *Children need good hearing so they can...*

- learn to speak and understand their language
- learn to listen
- learn their stories
- create connections with family, friends and teachers
- learn at school
- stay safe
- listen to instructions
- play with their family and friends



## OTITIS MEDIA

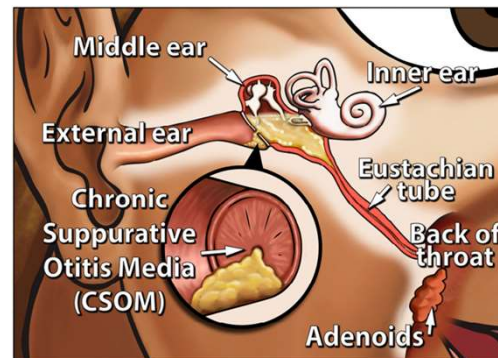
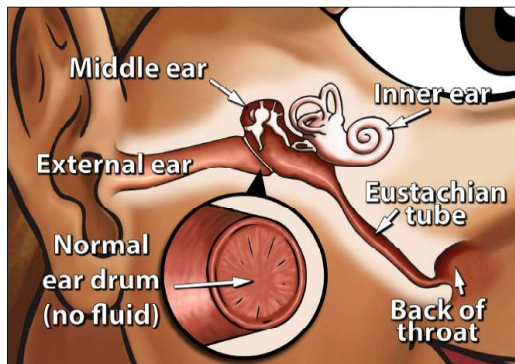
- Otitis Media = **ALL** infections or swelling of the middle ear – middle ear infection, tropical ear, swimmers ear, glue ear
- Usually associated with a build up of fluid in the middle ear – the fluid may or may not be infected
- Can impact a child's hearing – most common cause of hearing loss in young children
- Children regularly suffer from Otitis Media
- Can impact a child's hearing at different times



## CONDUCTIVE HEARING LOSS *nearly always* happens with Otitis Media

The ear is made up of three parts,

- outer ear
  - middle ear
  - inner ear
- ❖ a conductive hearing loss happens when sounds cannot get through the outer ear and middle ear
  - ❖ it may be hard to hear soft sounds
  - ❖ louder sounds may be muffled



**1 out of 10** children will start school with an undetected hearing loss!

## OTITIS MEDIA IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CHILDREN

- ❖ **Otitis Media** – **ALL** infections or swelling of the middle ear – middle ear infection, tropical ear, swimmers ear, glue ear

### ***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children...***

- have the highest reported rates of Otitis Media and burst ear drums  
***IN THE WORLD***
- have Otitis Media from an earlier age and more often
- have Otitis Media that lasts longer and are often more severe
- can suffer long-term hearing loss
- often have impacts on learning outcomes due to hearing loss

