

## **Letter to the Editor**

Page A 11 of the Times of Trenton on 5/8/12 carried an article written by DDHH Director David Alexander about hearing loss screening during May Better Hearing Month. Parents say: “turn that radio down!” It is a verifiable fact that prolonged exposure to loud sounds affects hearing early on, is accumulative in its effects from childhood on, and affects one’s language, school and social development, creating obstacles in educational, medical and worship environments. All this can surely happen if the volume is not turned down on radios, personal listening devices, and when a child is exposed to overly loud rock concerts, sporting events and anywhere there are loud machine and motor noises.

I live near an auto racetrack, and a popular amusement park where parents take their young children to enjoy watching and listening to race cars and loud music. I’m concerned about parents of infants, toddlers, very young and teenagers attending these venues who do not use earplugs and noise attenuation headsets to protect both theirs and their children’s hearing. By the time children’s hearing is damaged to the point of affecting their language development, school performance, and social interaction, it’s too late to reverse the deafness, and expensive hearing aids will then need to be provided. I once had normal hearing in infancy, and over a lifetime progressed to profoundest deafness, so I know what lies in store for anyone who damages his/her hearing with excessive noise. Alert to parents: when attending noisy entertainment venues please use earplug and noise blocking headsets for all of you. Turning down the volume is far less expensive than paying for hearing aids, and special education classes.

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