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SELECTIVE LISTENING

Many parents claim they can hear their children's voices over the din in noisy environments. As it turns out, this ability may be an adaptation that the ears develop in response to repeated exposure to a socially meaningful sound. Understanding this important hearing modification begins with a familiarity with the phenomenon known as "forward masking," which occurs when a sound immediately precedes another sound someone is trying to hear and interferes with the ability to understand it. Due to the proximity of the two sounds, the ear doesn't finish processing the first sound before the second one occurs. However, after repeated instances, the ear changes in ways that make it more sensitive to picking out signals in acoustically cluttered environments.

TIP OF THE WEEK

If you or someone you know experiences difficulty with hearing abilities, have a comprehensive hearing evaluation performed to determine the exact nature of any hearing loss present.

P.S. In order for hearing to develop and be adequately maintained, it is necessary for the ears to be stimulated with sounds, which can be helped by hearing instruments.

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