Did You Hear That?: Help For Children Who Hear Voices

Here are some tips for helping children who hear voices:

- Talk to your child about what they are hearing. Let them know that it is okay to talk about their experiences, and that you are there to listen.
- Reassure your child that they are not alone. Tell them that other people have heard voices, and that there are resources available to help them.
- Help your child to understand why they are hearing voices. Talk to them about the different reasons why children might hear voices, and help them to identify any factors that might be contributing to their own experiences.
- Teach your child coping mechanisms. There are a number of different coping mechanisms that children can use to deal with hearing voices. Some helpful techniques include:
 - Talking to a trusted adult. This could be a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult who can provide support and guidance.
 - Writing or drawing about their experiences. This can help children to express their feelings and to process what they are going through.
 - Listening to music or reading books about other people who have heard voices. This can help children to feel less alone and

to learn from the experiences of others.

 Seek professional help if needed. If your child is struggling to cope with hearing voices, it is important to seek professional help. There are a number of different therapies that can be helpful for children who hear voices, including:



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- Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT). This type of therapy helps children to challenge negative thoughts and beliefs, and to develop more positive coping mechanisms.
- Family therapy. This type of therapy helps children and their families to communicate more effectively and to develop strategies for coping with hearing voices.
- Medication. In some cases, medication may be necessary to help children manage the symptoms of hearing voices.

Resources for Children Who Hear Voices

- <u>The Hearing Voices Network</u>
- <u>The National Alliance on Mental Illness</u>

- The Anxiety and Depression Association of America
- <u>The Child Mind Institute</u>

Additional Tips for Parents

- Stay calm. It is important to stay calm and reassuring when talking to your child about hearing voices.
- Listen to your child without judgment. Allow your child to express their feelings and experiences without interrupting or dismissing them.
- Validate your child's experiences. Let your child know that you believe them and that you understand what they are going through.
- Avoid using negative labels. Do not label your child as "crazy" or "mentally ill."
- Seek professional help if needed. If you are concerned about your child's hearing voices, it is important to seek professional help.



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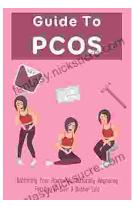
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