

not all hearts work the same

When someone is born with a heart condition, it's called Congenital Heart Disease, or CHD ("Congenital" means present at birth). CHD can range from very minor conditions that never cause problems, to more serious conditions that need help from a doctor.



There are many ways that a heart can be affected before birth and many different types of congenital heart disease. Here are two big categories:

1 Septal Defects or a "hole in the heart"
When a baby is born with an abnormal opening in the wall that separates the upper chambers (right and left atria) or lower chambers (right and left ventricles)

2 Stenosis or "narrow pipes"
When a baby is born with a narrowing or obstruction in heart valves, arteries or veins that affects the flow of blood

Try marking on the heart diagram below where these conditions might occur:

