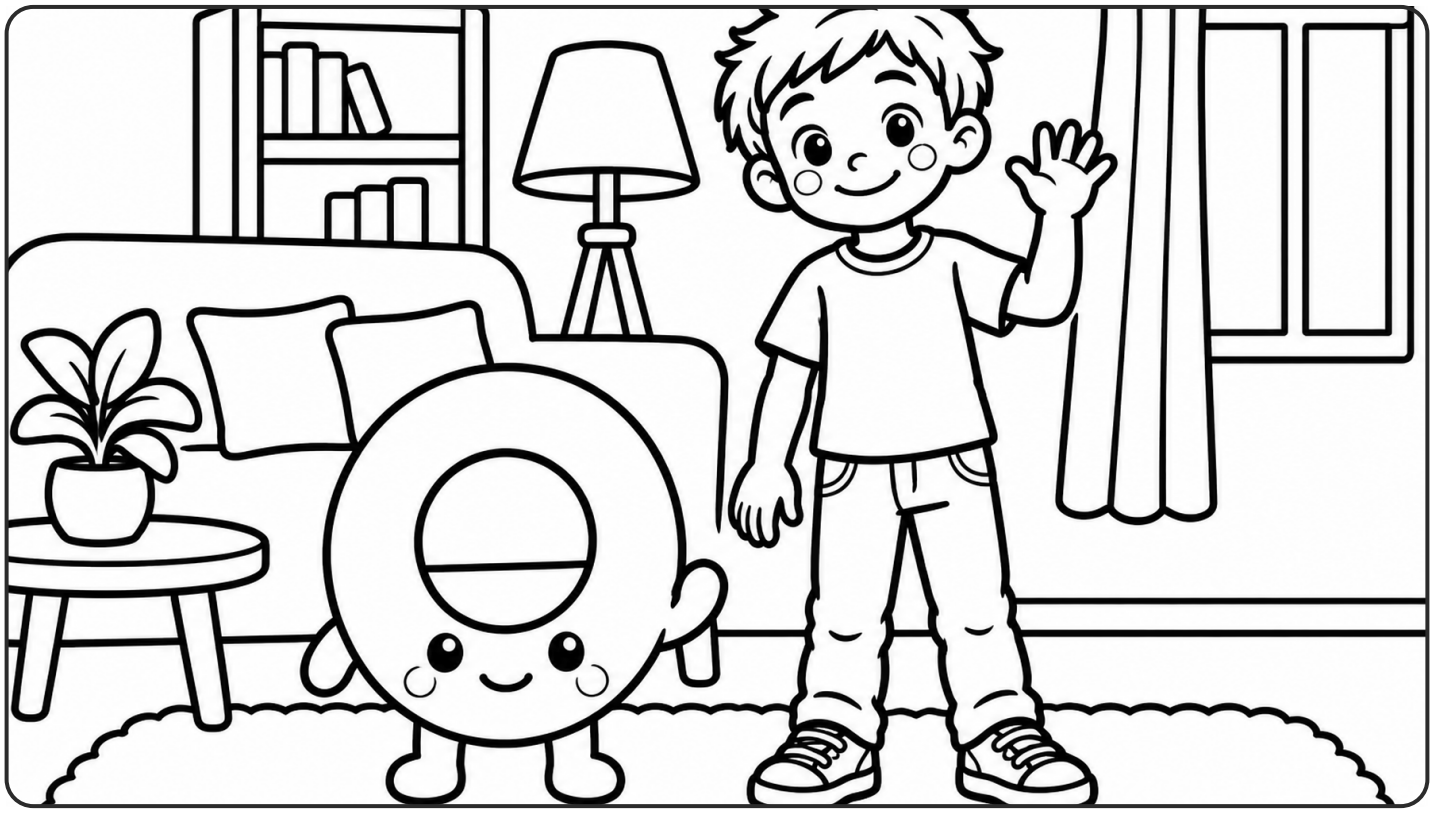
Why do we have earwax?

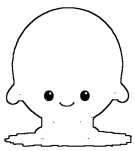
Look! Sticky stuff! Why do we have earwax?



Why?

1. **Earwax is not dirt. Your ear makes it on purpose!**
   Tiny glands in the skin make it, near the opening of your ear, a little at a time. It has fats in it, and that makes it sticky. And bits of old skin get mixed in, too.
2. **Sticky wax is a trap.**
   Dust and dirt can float into your ear. They land on the wax and get stuck, so they can't travel any further. That protects your eardrum, deep inside.
3. **Your ears clean themselves!**
   The top layer of skin in your ear slowly moves outward, from deep inside to the opening, and it carries the wax along. Just like a conveyor belt at the store! At the opening, the wax dries, flakes, and falls out.

Color Loopy too!



Try it! Feel your jaw help

You need: just you

1. Put your fingers on your cheek, just in front of your ear.
2. Now pretend to chew.
3. Feel that moving?

What happened? That's your jaw, helping your ear! When you chew and move your jaw, the wax moves along.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/earwax

scan with a grown-up