



Department of Health and Social Care

Rheynn Slaynt as Kiarail y Theay

help | support | education | advice | knowledge | assistance | health | care

Your Baby's Hearing Screening Test



In the first few weeks of your baby's life, you will be offered a routine health check for your baby – a hearing screening test.



Why screen my baby's hearing?

One to two babies in every 1000 are born with a hearing loss in one or both ears. This hearing screening test will allow those babies who do have a hearing loss to be identified early.

Early identification is known to be important for the development of the child. It also means that support and information can be provided to parents at an early stage.

Where will the test be carried out?

The test will normally take place in the Paediatric Audiology department based at Central Community Health Centre.

Will the hearing screening test be painful for my baby?

No. It does not hurt and is not uncomfortable. The screening test will usually be done while your baby is asleep or settled.

What does the hearing screening test involve?

A trained hearing screener carries out the hearing screening test. They place a small soft tipped earpiece in the outer part of your baby's ear which sends clicking sounds down the ear. When an ear receives sound, the inner part, known as the 'cochlea usually produces an echo. This test is called **Automated Otoacoustic Emissions (AOAE)**

The screening test only takes a few minutes. You can stay with your baby while the screening test is done. The results will be given to you at the time of the screening test.

What do the results mean if the hearing screening test shows a clear response from both of my baby's ears?

This means that your baby is unlikely to have a hearing loss. The test is a very reliable way of detecting hearing loss early.

Children can develop or acquire a hearing loss later on, so it is important to monitor your child's hearing as they grow up.

What do the results mean if the hearing screening test does not show a clear response from one or both of my baby's ears?

This means your baby needs a second hearing screening test.

Why does my baby need a second hearing screening test?

A lot of babies need to have a second hearing screening test because the first screen didn't show clear response from one or both of the baby's ears. This does not necessarily mean that your baby has a hearing loss.

- your baby may have been unsettled at the time of screening;
- there may have been background noise when the screening test was carried out; or
- your baby may have fluid or a temporary blockage in the ear after birth.

This is very common and will pass with time.

What does the second screening test involve?

The second screening test may be the same as the first screening test. Your baby may also have another type of screening test. This involves three small sensors being placed on your baby's head and neck. A series of clicking sounds are played into the ears. The hearing screening equipment measures how well your baby's ears respond to sound. This test is called **Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR)**

What happens if the second screening test does not show a clear response from one or both of my baby's ears?

If the second screening test does not show a clear response from one or both of your baby's ears you will be referred to the audiology department. They will carry out special tests to measure your baby's hearing. Again, this often happens and does not necessarily mean your baby has a hearing loss.

What can I do to prepare my baby for the screening test?

The screening test is easier to carry out if your baby is asleep. Don't worry if your baby will not settle. The Hearing Screener will understand that it is difficult to get a young baby to sleep. The following may help your baby to settle during the screening test.

- If possible, feed your baby shortly before the hearing screening test.
- Ensure you have the things that you may need to make your baby comfortable and happy.

If your baby has been admitted to the Neonatal Unit

Your baby may require an additional hearing test.

When and where does the screening take place if my baby is in the Neonatal Unit?

The screening test can usually be done before your baby leaves hospital. If this is not possible an appointment will be sent to you.

Further checks may be arranged for your baby even when the screening test shows clear responses.

After screening

If you have any concerns about your child's hearing, discuss them with your health visitor or family doctor. Your child's hearing can be tested at any age.



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Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about your baby's hearing screening test, you can contact the paediatric audiology department. You can also find out more from your health visitor or midwife.

For more information about your baby's hearing screening test contact -

**Paediatric Audiology Department Central
Community Health Centre Westmoreland Road,
Douglas, IM1 4QA**

Tel: 642634

The information in this leaflet
can be provided in

large format

or in audio format on request

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