

2. Your Baby's Follow-up Hearing Screen

sounds that your baby should react to and the types of sounds that they should make as they grow older. Your health visitor may also be able to provide you with a checklist. It is important to check your child's hearing as they grow up. 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.

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

If the second test does not show a strong response from one or both of your baby's ears you will be referred to your local 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. There may be a number of reasons why the second test could not record a strong response from one or both of your baby's ears. Further tests by an audiologist will give you better information about your baby's hearing. You will be given a leaflet explaining what this involves.

What is the likelihood of my baby having a hearing loss?

Most babies will record strong responses to sound at the second test and at the further tests carried out by an audiologist. However, there is the possibility that your baby may have a hearing loss. About one to two babies in every 1,000 are born with a hearing loss in one or both ears. Finding out that your baby has a hearing loss early means that you and your baby will get advice and support right from the start.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about your baby's hearing screen contact the hospital or health centre that will carry out the hearing screening test. You can also find out more from your health visitor, midwife or local audiology department.

This area is participating in the

NHS NEWBORN HEARING
SCREENING PROGRAMME

For more information about your baby's hearing test contact:



Information for parents of new born babies

Your Baby's Follow-up Hearing Screen test

Your baby has been referred for a second hearing screening test. This leaflet explains why your baby needs to be tested again and what the test will involve.

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 test didn't show a strong response from one or both of the baby's ears. This does not necessarily mean that there is a hearing loss. Some common reasons for having a second test are:

- The baby may have been unsettled at the time of the test.
- There may have been background noise when the screening test was carried out.
- They may have had fluid or a temporary blockage in the ear after the birth. This is very common and will pass with time.

Where will the follow-up test be done?

Your baby's follow-up test may be done before you leave the hospital. In some areas it will be done in a local surgery or health clinic. The person who gave you this leaflet will be able to tell you where and when the test will be done.

What does the second test involve?

The second screening test is the same as the first test, the Otoacoustic Emissions test (OAE). A small soft tipped ear piece is placed in the outer part of your baby's ear, which will send clicking sounds down the ear. When an ear receives sound, the inner part, known as the cochlea, produces an echo. By using a computer, the screener can see how both of your baby's ears respond to sound.

Your baby may also have another type of hearing test. This is known as the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test. This involves three small sensors being placed on your baby's head. Headphones are put over your baby's ears and a series of clicking sounds are played. A computer measures how well your baby's ears respond to sound.



OAE SCREENING TEST

The OAE screening test takes a few minutes. The ABR test takes a little longer. You can stay with your baby while the screening test is done. Neither of these tests will hurt or be uncomfortable for your baby. They will usually be carried out when your baby is asleep.

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

The 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 test:

- Try not to let your baby sleep before the appointment. This means that they are more likely to sleep through the test.
- If possible, feed your baby shortly before the test. This can help them sleep.
- Bring everything you need to make your child comfortable and happy. There should be space for you to feed and change your baby.

My baby seems to be responding to sound. Does my baby need a second hearing screening test?

Most babies are found to have no hearing loss after the second screening test, but it is still very important that your baby has the second test. This is because babies who have a hearing loss will usually react to some sounds. If your baby does have a hearing loss it is important that you find out as soon as possible.

When will I get the results of the screening test?

The results will usually be given to you at the time of the screening test. If you have any concerns or questions about the results, contact the hospital or health centre where the screening test was done. You can find the contact details at the end of this leaflet.

What happens if the second screening test shows a strong response from both of my baby's ears?

This means your baby is unlikely to have a hearing loss. After the screening test you may be given two checklists of the



OAE EARPIECE