

3. Your Baby's Visit to the Audiology Clinic

What if the tests still do not record a strong response from one or both of my baby's ears?

If this happens your audiologist will explain what the results mean. Further tests may be needed before you know about your baby's hearing. There are different types and levels of hearing loss. The results of the tests done at the clinic will help the audiologist ensure that you and your baby get the right support and information.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about your baby's hearing test contact the audiology clinic. You can also find out more from your health visitor.

You can also contact The National Deaf Children's Society. The Society has a Helpline for parents and families who would like more information about hearing tests and any type of childhood hearing loss.

The National Deaf Children's Society

15 Dufferin Street
London EC1Y 8UR
Freephone Helpline: 0808 800 8880 (voice & text)
Fax: 020 7251 5020

This area is participating in the



Contact details of your local clinic:



Information for parents

Your Baby's Visit to the Audiology Clinic

Your baby has been referred to the Audiology Clinic for a further hearing test. This leaflet explains why this test is needed and what is involved.

An audiology clinic is usually part of the local hospital and has special equipment which can test your baby's hearing. The tests carried out at the audiology clinic will give you and the audiologist better information about your baby's hearing. An audiologist is someone who specialises in hearing.

Early testing means that if a baby has a hearing loss the parents will know about it when their baby is very young. This is known to be important for the development of the child. It also means that parents can receive the information and support they need at an early stage.

Why does my baby need further tests?

Many babies need to have further tests because the first two screening tests did not show a strong enough response in one or both ears. This is common and can be due to a number of different things. The baby may have been too unsettled at the time of the screening test. They may have had fluid or a temporary blockage in their ears, after the birth. There may have been too much background noise in the room when the test was carried out. Being sent for further tests does not necessarily mean your baby has a hearing loss.

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

Most babies tested at the audiology clinic will be found to have no hearing loss. 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 this out early means that you and your baby will get advice and support right from the start.

My baby seems to be responding to sound. Do I need to take my baby for further tests?

It is important that you attend the appointment. 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 to find out as soon as possible.



ABR Test

What test will they do at the audiology clinic?

The test used involves three small sensors being placed on your baby's head. This is called the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test. Headphones are placed 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. This test is usually carried out when your baby is asleep. This test will give more detailed information about your baby's hearing.

The appointment will usually take about one to two hours. This will include time to settle your baby. The test will not hurt or be uncomfortable for your baby. You will be able to stay with your baby while the test is done.

What will happen after the test?

Your Audiologist will be able to tell you when the results of the test will be available. When you get the results

the audiology clinic will be able to explain them to you. If you have any concerns about the results, or you have any questions, contact the audiology clinic. You can find the contact details at the end of this leaflet.

What happens if the tests record a strong response from both of my baby's ears?

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