

A visit to the audiology clinic: 0-4 years

Information for parents & carers
Audiology Services



This sheet aims to explain what might happen when your child is brought to the audiology clinic.

We hope this information will answer some of the questions you may have.

Your child will be seen by a doctor or an audiologist, who will ask questions about your child's birth history, general development, speech, illness and whether any family members suffer from a permanent hearing loss.

Babies and toddlers

One test we may use involves the co-operation of your baby and their readiness to turn to different sounds, the loudness of which is measured. Baby will sit on your knee and the sounds will come from behind you. Or we may show baby a moving toy as a reward when they respond to different sounds.

The doctor or audiologist will look in your baby's ears and test for catarrhal fluid behind the eardrums (glue ear). It is very quick and does not hurt at all.

Some babies don't co-operate fully the first time they are tested so may have to be seen again. This is nothing to worry about.

Children up to the age of 4

The audiologist will play a game with your child using toys, asking them to show where the toys are in a low voice. This will ascertain your child's hearing level. Your child may be asked to listen to some sounds of different pitches and drop a brick when they hear a sound. The sound levels are measured.

Many children do not pass their hearing test for a number of reasons which can always be discussed with staff at the clinic.

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