

HEARING AID ASSESSMENT

Your child has been referred for a Hearing Aid assessment. The assessment will last up to an hour. You will be seen the Audiology team who are all Healthcare Scientists and Allied Health Professionals specialising in hearing.

What does the assessment involve?

A history will be taken to include your child's health, any medical conditions and questions about their hearing. We will also ask about any operations they may have had on their ears and any hearing aids used previously and how your child coped with these hearing aids. It is important to bring any hearing aids your child has ever had issued with you to the assessment.

Tests

All tests will be fully explained before starting and will only be carried out with your consent.

- **Hearing tests**

We will test your child's hearing and may do this in several ways depending on your child's developmental age. One method is to train your child to turn to a puppet every time a noise is heard or your child may be asked to play a listening game such as putting a ball on stick when a noise is heard. Older children may be able to press a button when a noise is heard. For further information on hearing tests please see our hearing assessment information sheet. If a hearing assessment is not possible then there are other methods of obtaining an accurate measure of hearing and your audiologist will discuss this with you.

- **Ear Examination**

The audiologist may wish to look in your child's ears where appropriate and may perform a test called tympanometry to check whether your child's middle ear is working normally.

- **Speech Testing**

This is occasionally carried out where appropriate and involves your child listening to words or sentences and repeating back what is heard or another type of test will require your child to point to different objects on a table when they are called out. This can help us determine how well your child can hear speech.

Results

The audiologist will look at all the results and discuss them with you. If your child has a hearing loss and needs a hearing aid(s) we will discuss the different options with you and help you decide on the appropriate one. Some hearing aids are placed on the bone at the back of the ear (called Bone Conduction Hearing aids) in which case normally a measurement of the size of your child's head is taken and occasionally this can be fitted straight away. Other hearing aids sit behind the ear and require a mould to be taken of your child's ear so another appointment is necessary for the hearing aid to be fitted once the moulds have been returned from being made at the factory.

Earmoulds

If an earmould is required the Audiologist will have a look inside your child's ear and put a little foam stop inside to stop the impression material going too far inside the ear. A putty like material is then introduced into the ear by a syringe and it will set after a few minutes. The impression of the ear is then removed and sent off to a factory to be made into a custom earmould – there is sometimes a choice of colour or design on certain types of earmoulds. Most children enjoy the experience however some are naturally nervous and may need reassuring. Babies normally need to be sat cuddled on a parents lap.

How can I find out more?

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact the department on 0121 333 9364 / 9366