

Hearing Assessment Information for Parents / Guardians

Your infant / child has been referred for a hearing assessment appointment which can last up to half an hour. You will be seen by an Audiologist, who is a Healthcare Scientist / Allied Health Professional specialising in hearing.

Tests

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

Your infant / child will receive some of these tests depending on which ones the Audiologist feels are appropriate.

Ear Examination

Your child's ears will be examined by the Audiologist using a special instrument which magnifies and illuminates inside your child's ears. Young children may need to be held in order that this can be performed successfully and your Audiologist will advise you. The Audiologist is looking at the condition of the ear canal and eardrum.

Tympanometry

A soft tip may be placed in your child's ear canal. They will feel a slight pressure for a few seconds and hear a low pitched tone but this does not hurt. A chart is recorded which shows the Audiologist how well your child's eardrum is moving and whether they have any congestion behind the eardrum. Young children may need to be held in order that this can be performed successfully and your Audiologist will advise you.

Hearing Test

There are various methods that can be used to test your child's hearing:

- Pressing a button every time a noise is heard.
- Playing a game such as placing a ball on a stick every time a noise is heard.
- Training your child to turn to a puppet every time a noise is heard
- Turning to various sounds presented behind your child.

A wide range of tones are presented either through loud speakers, headphones or insert headphones. The quietest tones that your child can hear are recorded and from this any hearing loss, its type and nature are determined.

Results

The Audiologist will go through the results with you on the day.

Sometimes it isn't possible to complete all the tests on one session or it may be necessary to come back for a review appointment and this will be discussed with you.

Is there anything I can do to prepare my child?

Please see information sheet on playing listening games with your child. If your child is not used to wearing headphones, placing these on their head prior to the appointment can sometimes help.

I have more questions, who should I contact?

Please call the department on 0121 333 9364 / 9366 if you have any further questions.