

## Patient information factsheet

# Your child's hearing appointment in the community

We have given you this factsheet because your child has been referred to the community audiology clinic. It explains what the community audiology clinic is and what will happen at your child's appointment. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us using the details at the end of this factsheet.

### What is the community audiology clinic?

Our community audiology team test and manage hearing loss in babies and children up to the age of 18. Children who are referred with suspected hearing difficulties will usually be seen in one of our community clinics first. These clinics are based at:

- Pickles Coppice Family Hub, 65 Windemere Avenue, Southampton, SO16 9QX
- Hythe Hospital, Beaulieu Road, Hythe, Southampton, SO45 4ZB
- Weston Lane Centre for Healthy Living, Weston Lane, Southampton SO19 9GH

### Why does my child need their hearing tested?

Your child has been referred to the audiology clinic for a hearing test due to concerns about their hearing or development. It's important to identify hearing problems as early as possible because they can affect your child's speech and language development, social skills and education.

### Are there any risks?

A hearing test is a safe and painless test.

### How can I help prepare my child for their appointment?

To help prepare your child for their audiology appointment, we have written a short story with pictures that you may wish to read with your child to help them understand what will happen. Knowing what is going to happen can help ease any worries your child may have about coming to the clinic. The story is included at the end of this factsheet or, alternatively, you can read it on our website:

[www.uhs.nhs.uk/departments/audiology/childrens-hearing-services/preparing-your-child-for-their-audiology-appointment](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/departments/audiology/childrens-hearing-services/preparing-your-child-for-their-audiology-appointment)

We also have a video that you may find helpful to watch with your child before their appointment. Please use the link below to watch the video 'Visiting the audiology department at RSH (walkthrough directions)': [www.youtube.com/watch?v=W673mj\\_w2FQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W673mj_w2FQ)

**Please be aware that the location of your child's appointment will differ from that shown in the video but the tasks will remain the same.**

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To help us make the appointment as stress free as possible for you and your child, please let us know if your child has any additional needs that we should know about before we meet them. To speak to someone in our team, please use the contact details at the end of the factsheet.

## What will happen at the appointment?

At the appointment, we will initially ask you a few questions about your child's hearing, development and general health before testing their hearing. We will also ask you for your consent to test your child's hearing.

Please note that if your child is particularly restless on the day of your visit, we may decide to do their hearing test before asking you for their medical history.

There are many ways to test a child's hearing. The tests we use will differ from child to child and will be decided based on your child's age and development.

## Behavioural hearing tests

All of the tests below are interactive and are intended to be fun for your child while testing their hearing:

- visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA) – this test will involve your child looking for a puppet when they hear a sound
- performance/play audiometry – this test will involve your child playing a game (for example, placing a toy figure in a boat when they hear a sound)
- pure tone audiometry (PTA) – this test will involve your child pressing a button when they hear a sound

## Objective hearing tests

The tests below are usually used for younger children. However, we sometimes use these tests for older children when we need further information about their hearing:

- tympanometry – this test will assess your child's middle ear function and check for glue ear (a common condition in young children)
- otoacoustic emissions (OAEs) – this test will assess the response to sound from a part of your child's inner ear

For more information about each of these tests, please visit our website at:

[www.uhs.nhs.uk/departments/audiology/childrens-hearing-services/hearing-assessment](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/departments/audiology/childrens-hearing-services/hearing-assessment)

## What will happen after the test?

Your child will be able to return to their normal daily activities after having their hearing assessment.

## When will my child receive their results?

We will usually be able to discuss your child's results with you immediately after the test. If we think that your child needs any further tests or needs to be assessed at a different clinic, we will discuss this with you in more detail.

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## Story

### My visit to the hearing clinic

I am going to the audiology clinic today. They will check my hearing.



We look for the audiology clinic and go into the waiting room. There might be toys to play with while I wait my turn.

The audiologist comes and says my name – it's my turn!



We go into the room and my grown-up answers some questions. I can play with some more toys.

The audiologist looks in my ears with a special torch.



Next, they put a tip in my ear and it draws a picture on the computer. Sometimes it's a bit tickly. The audiologist is happy when I sit still.

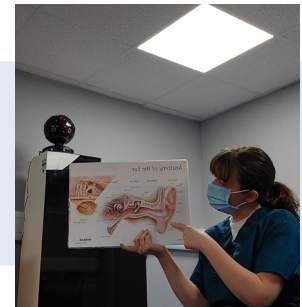
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It's time to play the listening games. I put a man in the boat when I hear a sound. Some of the sounds are very quiet. I listen hard for all the sounds.



Other children hear a sound, and when they look they see a toy dancing or disco ball light up.

When we have finished playing the games, the audiologist tells my grown-up about my hearing. They tell us if I need to come back for more games on another day.



I get a sticker for listening so well today and it's time to go home. The listening games are really fun. My ears are very clever!

## Contact us

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact us.

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If you are a patient at one of our hospitals and need this document translated, or in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **0800 484 0135** or email [patientsupporthub@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:patientsupporthub@uhs.nhs.uk)

For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit [www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport)