

Hearing tests for your baby

An **easy read** guide to tests we can do to check how well your newborn baby can hear



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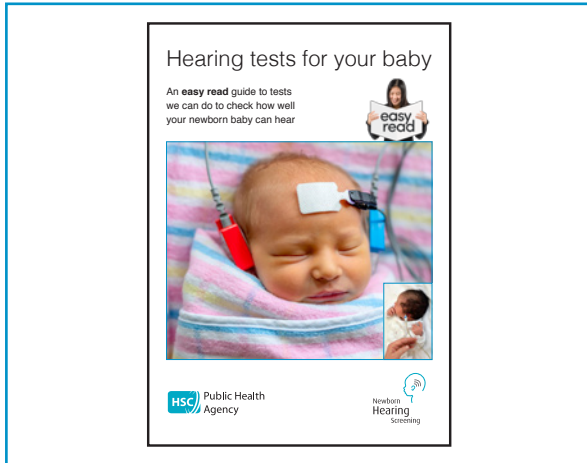
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Introduction



This guide has information about the hearing tests your baby can have.



Hearing tests help us find out how well your baby is hearing.
If we find your baby has difficulty hearing, we can help. This is why we think it is a good idea for your baby to have a hearing test.



You can choose if you want your baby to have a hearing test.
You can say no to the hearing test.



Your midwife or doctor can give you more information and answer questions.
They can help you decide if you want your baby to have a hearing test.

About the hearing tests



Hearing tests help us find out how well your baby is hearing.

If your baby has a difficulty hearing, we can help. For example, helping them to hear and talk as they grow up.



A hearing test will not hurt your baby.

It is usually done while your baby is relaxed or sleeping.

You can stay with your baby when they have their hearing test.



The hearing test can be done either
- before you leave hospital
or
- at a clinic if you and your baby have already gone home from hospital.

A clinic is a special area where we do these tests. It may be at the same hospital where your baby was born.



We keep information about your baby and their test results safe.

We only share this information with staff who need to see it.

Hearing test 1



Most babies only have hearing test 1. This test only takes a few minutes.

Soft earphones are put in your baby's ears. Soft clicking sounds are played through the earphones.



A machine will check if your baby hears the sound.



Sometimes this test does not show a clear result. It does not always mean your baby has difficulty hearing.



Sometimes the test result is not clear if

- your baby is not relaxed
- your baby has blocked ears
- the test happens in a noisy place or
- your baby has difficulty hearing.



The test will be done again if it did not work well.

This can be done before you leave hospital or you and your baby can come back for the test.

Hearing test 2

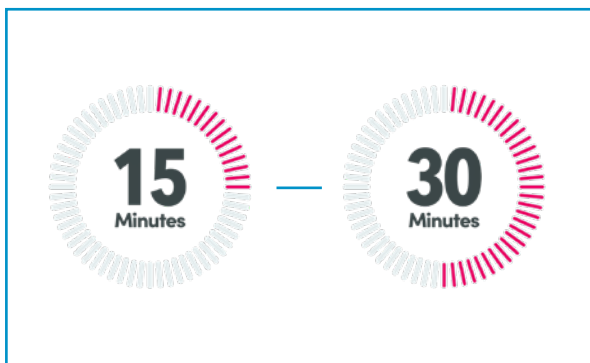


If hearing test 1 results were still not clear, your baby will have a different hearing test - hearing test 2.



This test is also given to babies who have been in the neonatal ward for longer than 2 days in a row.

A neonatal ward is a place in the hospital where we look after babies that are sick or were born very early.



This test takes 15 to 30 minutes. The test will not hurt your baby.



This test has 3 steps

1. 3 small pads are put on your baby's head and neck.
2. Soft headphones are put on your baby's ears.
3. Soft clicking sounds are played.



A machine will check if your baby hears the sounds.

Test results



We will tell you the results of the hearing tests straight away.

For most babies their hearing will be fine.

If your baby's test shows a green tick, your baby's hearing is probably OK.



Sometimes babies can get hearing difficulties as they get older.

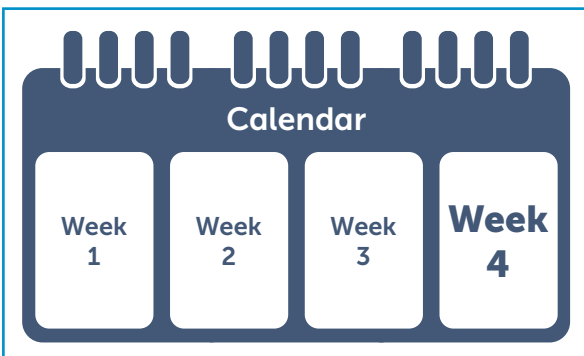
If you are worried about your baby's hearing, at **any** time, talk to your health visitor or doctor.



If the test results show your baby might have a hearing difficulty, we will send you and your baby to a hearing expert.

Hearing experts will find out more about how your baby hears.

It is important that you go to your appointment. If we find that your baby has difficulty hearing, we can help.



The hearing expert will try to see your baby in 4 weeks.



Your health visitor will give you a red book called a **Personal Child Health Record**.

This book has information about the health of your baby. It includes questions about how well your baby can hear.

Personal Child Health Record

Please keep this book safe

Please bring this book to all appointments



Take the red book with you when you see anyone about the health of your baby.

Keep this red book safe.



Talk to your health visitor or doctor if you're worried about your baby's hearing at any time.



All children who go to school will be invited to have another hearing test when they are 4 or 5 years old.

If your child does not go to school, please contact your doctor.



If you change your address or phone number, please tell your doctor, health visitor or midwife.

This is important so that we can contact you.



Thanks

The Public Health Agency would like to thank
TILII Translates for their help checking this easy
read guide.

<https://arcuk.org.uk/northernireland>



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