

Monday, 13 April 2015

## [Service Development and Screening](#)

AGE APPROPRIATE HEARING ASSESSMENT / DIAGNOSTIC TESTING GUIDANCE  
Issued by the Regional Newborn Hearing Screening Quality Improvement  
Group (March 2015)

### 1. Referral Pathway

Parental or professional concern regarding an infant/young child's hearing may be identified at any time. Where such concern is identified, direct referral should be made, irrespective of newborn hearing screening outcomes and with parental agreement.

- Under 6 months of age → paediatric otolaryngology/ENT
- Births up to 3 years → audiology services that provide visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA)
- Over 3 years → Audiology services

Distraction testing (delivered by health visitors) is not part of the Healthy Child, Healthy Future Programme. Distraction testing should only be carried out as part of a diagnostic audiological assessment in a controlled environment, by appropriately skilled staff.

### 2. Test Options

- 2.1 Under 6 months (corrected gestational age (GA))
  - Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) under natural sleep, especially for younger babies. Test at 80dB and 10dB at evaluation frequency (500Hz). If there is a passing ABR, some conduction testing should also be performed.

- Where it has not been possible to obtain reliable ABR results, audition or assessment should be used in line with national clinical guidelines, available at: [Paediatric Audiology Unit](#)

- Diagnostic otoscopy/otoscopy (OAE) audiology

- Behavioural testing-Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA) around 7 months if the infant is close to this age. Take into account the urgency of testing.

- 2.2 Over 6 months up to 3 years (corrected gestational age (GA))

- Visual Reinforcement Audiometry
- Use ear specific and frequency specific stimuli. A significant hearing loss should be excluded. If ear and frequency specific information cannot be obtained the child should be referred to rule out milder degrees of hearing loss.

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## Details

Format

A4 PDF

Target group

Health professionals

## Downloads

Attachment	Size
<a href="#">Age Appropriate Hearing Assessment Diagnostic Testing Final 110315_0.pdf</a>	419.92 KB
<a href="#">Print</a>	