



Sgrinio Clyw Babanod **Cymru**  
Newborn Hearing Screening **Wales**

Easy Read

# Hearing screening tests for babies needing special care



V1: August 24



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Iechyd Cyhoeddus  
Cymru  
Public Health  
Wales

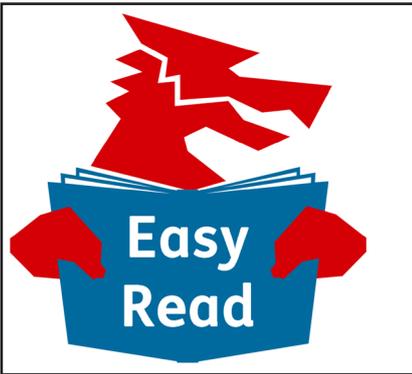
Scan here



[www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening](http://www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening)

# How to use this leaflet

---



This is an Easy Read leaflet. The words are easy to read and understand. Words in **bold blue** writing may be hard to understand. Difficult words are in **bold** the first time they are used.



You may need help and support to read and understand this leaflet. Ask someone you know to help you.



This leaflet is available in Welsh.

# Contents: What is in this leaflet

---

**What is newborn hearing screening?**

**4**

**Why should my baby have a hearing screening test?**

**6**

**About your baby's hearing test**

**7**

**About the test**

**8**

**Results**

**11**

**Further tests**

**14**

**More information**

**15**

**Where can I get more information?**

**16**

**Keeping healthy**

**17**

# What is newborn hearing screening?



Your baby will be offered a hearing **screening** test.

This is offered in the first few weeks of their life.

Taking part is your choice.



**Screening** means checking people for some other types of health problems. When these are found early, they are easier to treat.



The hearing screening test can find out if your baby can hear.



Some babies need more than one test.



The test is quick and simple. It will not harm your baby.



The test does not find all babies who cannot hear.



It cannot stop babies having problems with their hearing.

# Why should my baby have a hearing screening test?



Most babies will be able to hear but some cannot.

Finding out early is important so you can get help for you and your baby.

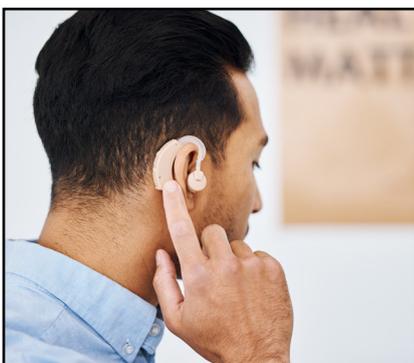


Babies who cannot hear may find it harder to speak.



A baby who needs **special care** may be more likely to have a hearing loss.

**Special Care** is when a baby is born early or is unwell.



Most babies who cannot hear will be born into families who can hear.

# About your baby's hearing test



Most babies will be tested in hospital before they go home.



Some babies do not have the test in hospital. They can have it in a clinic near to where they live.



A **screener** will carry out the test.

# About the test



The test is done while your baby is settled or asleep.



It will not hurt or harm your baby.



It only takes a few minutes.



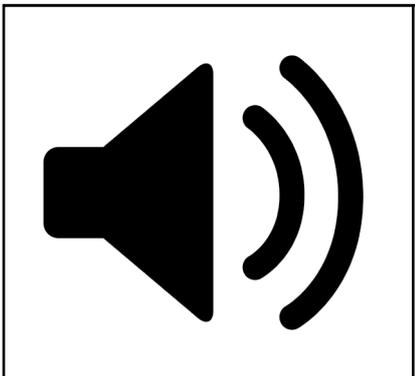
You can stay with your baby while the test is done.



Small sticky pads are put on your baby's head and neck for this test.



Small headphones are put over your baby's ears.



This will make a clicking sound.



The test tells the screener if your baby can hear the sound.



The screener will tell you the result of the test straightaway.



They will tell you if your baby needs another test.

# Results

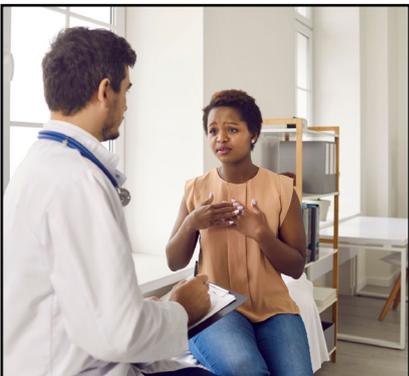


**Clear response** in both ears.

This means your baby is not likely to have problems with their hearing.



The screener will give you more information.



They will tell you what to do if you are worried.



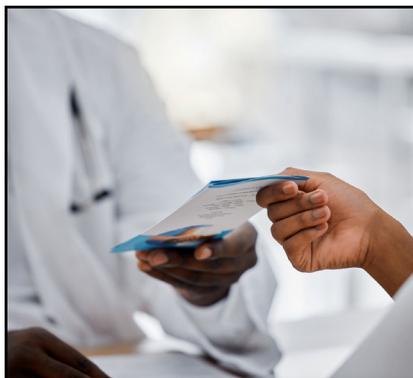
If both of your baby's ears do not show a clear response.



It does not mean your baby cannot hear.



You will be contacted to make another appointment.

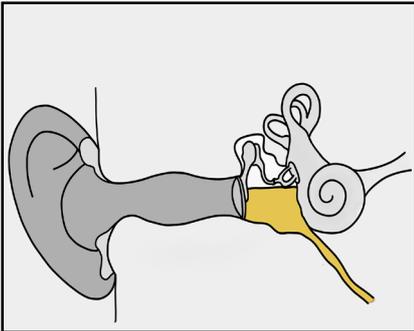


The screener will give you more information. They will tell you what to do if you are worried.

Clear responses may not be seen if:

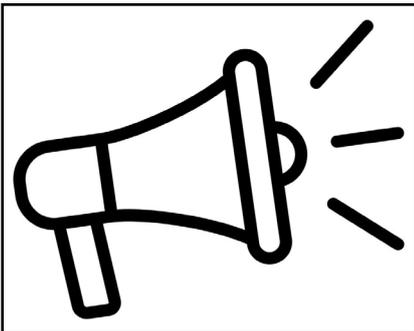


Your baby is **unsettled**.



There is **fluid** in the ear from birth.

This is known as glue ear. This is a very common and often treatable condition.



There is too much noise near your baby when the test is done.



Your baby has a **hearing loss**.

This means your baby may not be able to hear as well as they should.



The screener will talk to you about what happens next.

## Further tests



Some babies need more tests with an **audiologist**.

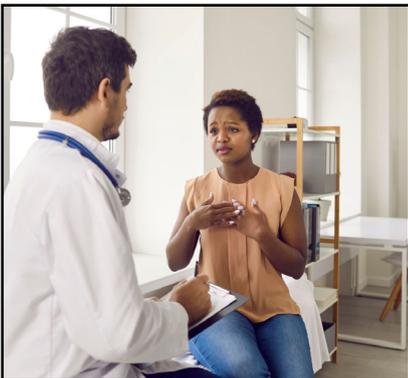
An **audiologist** is someone who knows a lot about hearing.



You will get an appointment within 8 weeks of your baby's test result.



This gives time for your baby's hearing to develop.



We know this can be a worrying time.

Talk to us, your baby's nurse or someone you trust.



After your baby is born, you will be given a red book.

Take it with you when you see anyone about your baby's health.



Tell your midwife or health visitor if you move home.



Let your midwife or health visitor know if you need any support.

# Where can I get more information?

---



Phone:

South East Wales: [029 2184 3568](tel:02921843568)

South West Wales: [01792 343364](tel:01792343364)

North Wales: [03000 848710](tel:03000848710)



E-mail:

[newborn-hearing-screening@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:newborn-hearing-screening@wales.nhs.uk)



You can contact us in Welsh or English. It will take us the same amount of time to answer you whichever language you choose.



For more information about screening and the different tests, visit our website:

[www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening](http://www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening)

# Keeping healthy



Go for screening when invited.



Keep up to date with you and your baby's **vaccinations** when offered.

A **vaccine** is a medicine that keeps you safe from catching an illness.



Stop smoking. You can get free help to support you to stop smoking.

Ring Help Me Quit on: [0800 085 2219](tel:08000852219)



Eat healthy food.



Move more.



Drink less alcohol.