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Your baby's hearing screening test



www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening



Sgrinio Clyw Babanod Cymru
Newborn Hearing Screening Wales

V14: Sept 24

This leaflet can help you decide if you want your baby to have a hearing screening test. It will tell you:

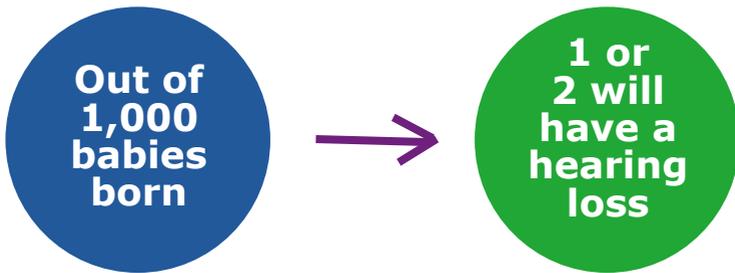
- why we have offered your baby a hearing screening test;
- when and where we do the test;
- how the test is done; and
- what the results mean.



What is newborn hearing screening?

All babies are offered health checks in the first few weeks of their life. One of these checks is a hearing screening test. This is a quick and simple test and will not harm your baby. Some babies need another test in a hospital clinic. You can choose whether or not your baby has hearing screening.

Why should my baby have a hearing screening test?



Most of these babies will be born into families where no one else has a hearing loss.

It is not easy for parents to tell if a young baby has a hearing loss. Finding out early is important for your baby's development. This means you can get more support and information to help you and your baby.

Screening does not find all hearing loss or prevent future hearing difficulties.

About the test

We try to offer you the test for your baby before they go home from hospital. If not, it can be done in the community, usually in a clinic.

A screener will carry out the test while your baby is settled or asleep. It will not hurt or harm your baby and only takes a few minutes. You can stay with your baby while the test is done.

A small soft-tipped earpiece is put in the outer part of your baby's ear. This makes a clicking sound. The equipment shows the screener how your baby's ears are responding to the sound.



If the equipment does not pick up a clear response, the screener may do a different test. They may do a test where small sticky pads are put on your baby's head and neck. Small headphones are put over your baby's ears. These headphones will make a clicking sound. The equipment shows the screener how your baby's ears are responding to the sound.



Results

The screener will tell you the result of the test straightaway and explain if another test is needed.

There are three possible results:

Clear response

Most babies have a clear response from one or both of their ears. This means your baby is unlikely to have a hearing loss. The screener will give you information on how babies respond to sound as they grow. They will tell you what to do if you are worried about your baby's hearing.

If only one of your baby's ears shows a clear response

Some babies show a clear response only in one ear. If this happens you may choose to have another hearing test. The screener will give you more information.

If neither of your baby's ears shows a clear response

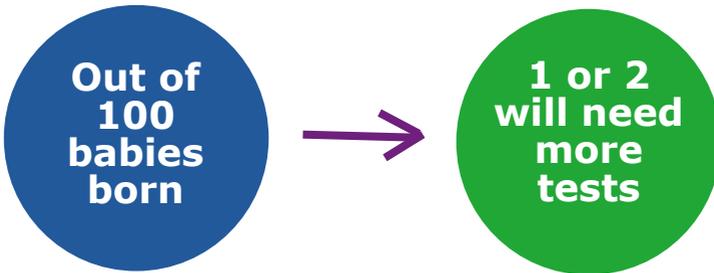
Some babies do not show a clear response in either of their ears. It does not always mean your baby has a hearing loss.

Clear responses may not be seen if:

- your baby is unsettled;
- there is fluid in the ear (from the birth);
- there is too much noise near the baby when the test is done; or
- your baby has a hearing loss.

The screener will offer your baby another hearing test with an audiologist (hearing specialist). These tests need to be done when your baby is still likely to sleep a lot during the day. The screener will give you more information about what happens next.

Further tests



If more tests are needed, the audiologist will send an appointment. They will send this within four weeks from when you had your baby’s hearing screening result.



This allows time for your baby’s hearing to develop.

Waiting for another hearing test can be worrying. If you have any questions, you can contact newborn hearing screening or speak to your health visitor.

Further information

If you have any questions about newborn hearing screening or would like information in Easy Read, British Sign Language (BSL), audio or large print, contact your local screening office or visit our website:



South East Wales: 029 2184 3568



South West Wales: 01792 343364



North Wales: 03000 848710



newborn-hearing-screening@wales.nhs.uk



www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening

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 on how we use information about you, visit our website:

www.phw.nhs.wales/privacy-notice

