Audiology
Paediatric hearing assessment

Information for patients, relatives and carers

ℹ️ For more information, please contact:

Audiology Department
York & Selby Hospitals
Audiology Tel: 01904 726741
Email: hearingaidrepairs@york.nhs.uk

Springhill House, Scarborough
Tel: 01723 342821

Repair services also available at:
Malton Hospital, Whitby Hospital, Bridlington Hospital,
Thirsk Health Centre,
Filey - Silver Birches Care Home,
Pickering - Train Lane Clinic
(Contact via Springhill House)

Caring with pride
Caring about what we do • Respecting and valuing each other
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Why am I being given this information?

To assist you and your child in your journey in audiology, we have put some information together to help you get the best from your audiology appointment.

What are the different types of hearing loss?

**Conductive** - This can occur when sound is unable to pass through the outer and middle ear to the cochlea (inner ear) and auditory (hearing) nerve. The most common cause of conductive hearing loss in childhood is glue ear (fluid in the middle ear). This is usually a temporary condition. Glue ear (also known as otitis media with effusion) affects about one in five pre-school children. For most children, glue ear clears up by itself and doesn’t need any treatment.

**Sensorineural (or nerve) deafness** is when there’s a fault in the inner ear (most often because the hair cells in the cochlea are not working properly) or auditory (hearing) nerve. Sensorineural deafness is permanent.

**Mixed deafness** is when there’s a combination of sensorineural and conductive deafness, such as when a child has glue ear and a permanent sensorineural deafness.
How do you test children’s hearing?

• **Behavioural testing**

Behavioural hearing assessments use test techniques where the audiologist records the child’s response to the sound.

• **Visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA)**

This test is suitable for children form six months to about two and a half years. The audiologist uses an audiometer, and plays sounds of different frequencies through speakers or headphones. When the child hears the sound they will turn their head and a visual reward is activated, such a flashing toy or teddy.

• **Performance test (play audiometry)**

This test is usually introduced at the age of two and a half. Your child will be asked to put a ‘man in a boat’ or a ‘ring on a stick’ when they hear the sound. The test can be done with sounds through the speakers, or to get more specific information the audiologist may put some insert earphones or headphones on.

• **Pure tone audiometry**

Older children are able to concentrate for longer periods of time and may be asked to push a button when they hear the sound.
How can we help with the tests?

The audiologist will explain how they are going to test your child and may ask questions about your child’s general health, their ongoing development, and if you have any concerns about your child’s hearing. If you have any questions about the hearing test, it is usually best to wait until the test has finished before asking these, otherwise it can disrupt the test.

You can visit Audiology Services on the York Hospitals website www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/our-services/a-z-of-services/audiology here you will find a storyboard to assist and prepare for the appointment.

You can try a ‘go’ game at home. Ask your child to “wait”, “listen” and “go”. When you say “go” your child drops a toy in the bucket, or puts a ring on a stick.
Quick tips for a successful hearing test:

- Please try to arrive on time for your appointment. If you are running late, please try and call ahead to see if it is still possible for your child to be seen. If you arrive late you may not be seen and have to return on another day.

- If your child is unwell on the day, please cancel the appointment and rearrange for another day.

- Please come prepared in case you have to wait. Perhaps bring a drink, snack, wipes, nappies etc.

- The audiology testing rooms can be quite warm. Please take yours and your child’s coats off prior to coming into audiology.

- The audiologist will want to look into your child’s ears, and will need your help in holding your child still to assist with this. If your child becomes upset or distressed with someone looking in their ears, please tell the audiologist.

- It is really helpful to try and make childcare arrangements for any other children that you have as it is difficult to test when other children are in the room.

- Please ensure that you switch your mobile phone off.

- You can practice putting some headphones on your child at home to get used to the feeling.

- Practice trying to get your child to sit on a chair for periods of time.
Communication tips:

- Making sure you have the child’s full attention before speaking.
- Say the child’s name before speaking to them to ensure you have their attention.
- Speak slowly, making sure your voice is loud and clear, but don’t shout.
- Reduce any background noise.
- Keep sentences short and simple. Be prepared to break them up into short chunks.
- Allow extra time for the child to process language.
- Be aware children may appear to understand spoken language but may look at visual cues to understand.
- Make sure your language is meaningful; talk about the here and now, things within the child’s experiences.
- Change the words to help the child understand, use simpler words but keep the message the same.
- Be aware when new words have been used and help your child understand these.
- Check for listening and understanding frequently.
- Give lots of visual cues e.g. gestures, pointing to things.
- Help the child develop a strategy to let you know when they have not understood.
Please refer to further publications on:
www.yorkhosptials.nhs.uk:
- Child health
- Therapy services
- Speech and language

Audiology have prepared this information to help assist in your journey through audiology and ENT.

If you need any further advice please refer to our website. www.yorkhospital.nhs.uk/ourservices/audiology

Our storyboard can be downloaded direct from:
https://www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/seecmsfile/?id=1511

**Acknowledgements**

Astronaut characters designed and created by Rebecca Stoner www.rebeccastoner.co.uk for York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact: Audiology Department, The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE, telephone 01904 726741 or email: hearingaidrepairs@york.nhs.uk.

Teaching, training and research

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email pals@york.nhs.uk.

An answer phone is available out of hours.