

Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders

Your Child's Hearing Test: Play Audiometry

This is a simple, painless and fun method of testing your child's hearing.

You will be asked to sit your child in a small chair or on your knee. An audiologist will sit in front of you with toys such as some pegs and a board. It's important that you just sit back and relax so that you don't give any clues to your child.

Some loud bleeps and tones will then be played through some headphones which will be lying on the table. We will then condition your child to put the peg on the board when they hear the sound. Your child will be rewarded with lots of smiles and praise. When the child has grasped the game the loud tones and bleeps will be turned down and the headphones will be placed over your child's ears. We will then be able to obtain information about your child's hearing by testing the ears separately.

When testing with headphones, the sounds go into the ear canal, through the middle ear to reach the inner ear. This is known as air conduction testing. Air conduction testing looks at how the whole hearing system responds to sound.

After we have tested with the headphones it may be necessary to test your child's ears using another device called a bone vibrator which is placed behind the ear. As your child did with the headphones they will be asked to put a peg on the board when they hear a sound. When testing with the bone conductor this sends sounds directly to the inner ear. Sounds are sent through the bones of the head and do not pass through the eardrum or the middle ear. This is called bone conduction testing.

Your appointment will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes and play audiometry may take up to 20 minutes depending on the child's concentration. The hearing test is painless and does not have any side effects. The test does not hurt and is not uncomfortable. It can be used for children aged from 2 ½ years and can also be used to test older children who are unable to take part in other forms of testing.

If you have any further queries please contact the Centre for Hearing and Balance. Tel. 024 7696 6444

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6444 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The trust operates a smoke free policy

www.uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History - Author: Verity Hill Department: Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders Contact: 26444 **Published:** December 2013 **Reviewed:** May 2019 **Review:** May 2021
Version: 3.1 **Reference:** HIC/LFT/1786/14

