

# Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders (Audiology)

## Explanation for Hearing Loss in Babies

Name.....

NHS number .....

The above baby was seen today for a hearing test and baby was found to have a mild/ significant / severe / profound hearing loss.

The levels obtained today show that the hearing levels are:

	Left ear	Right ear
High frequency sounds		
Mid frequency sounds		

The hearing loss is permanent / permanent with a conductive overlay.

### Hearing loss can be categorised as below:

**Mild loss:** A mild hearing loss means that your baby's hearing is slightly below the level that is considered normal. Your baby has a good degree of useful hearing but may have difficulty hearing quieter sounds such as a whisper or the ticking of a clock. Your baby will often hear you talking to them when it is one-to-one in quiet surroundings quite well. Your baby may also find it harder to follow a speaker's voice if they are more than about



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1.5 metres (five feet) away, or if there is a lot of background noise such as in a classroom or a supermarket for example. It is important that your child's hearing loss is recognised and supported.

With the appropriate support a mild hearing loss should not stop your child reaching their potential. If your baby has a mild hearing loss it is likely that their hearing loss will be monitored at regular intervals.

**Significant loss:** A significant hearing loss means your baby's hearing is below the level that is considered normal. Your baby will be able to hear speech if you are near to them, if you are speaking in their ear or if the baby is in your arms. They will not be able to overhear conversation when they are more than two feet away from you. They will be able to hear speech if you are standing next to them, or facing them at a close distance. They will be able to hear noises and may even startle at loud noises, however your baby will not be able to hear all of the speech sounds. This means that your baby will have much less language exposure which will result in poor language development and literacy skills and will have an impact on their hearing. To help with speech development it is likely that hearing aids will be recommended. Evidence shows that if hearing aids are fitted and worn by the time the child is six months then their speech will develop at the same rate as their peers.

**Severe loss:** A severe hearing loss means that your baby has a considerable hearing loss. Your baby will struggle with hearing your voice if they are close to you and at a distance. They will struggle to hear loud sounds such as a dog's bark or the vacuum cleaner and they will struggle to hear the clarity of any speech sounds. This means your baby will have very little language exposure, which will result in language and speech problems. To help with speech development it is likely that hearing aids will be recommended. Evidence shows that if hearing aids are fitted and worn by the time the child is six months then their speech will develop at the same rate as their peers.

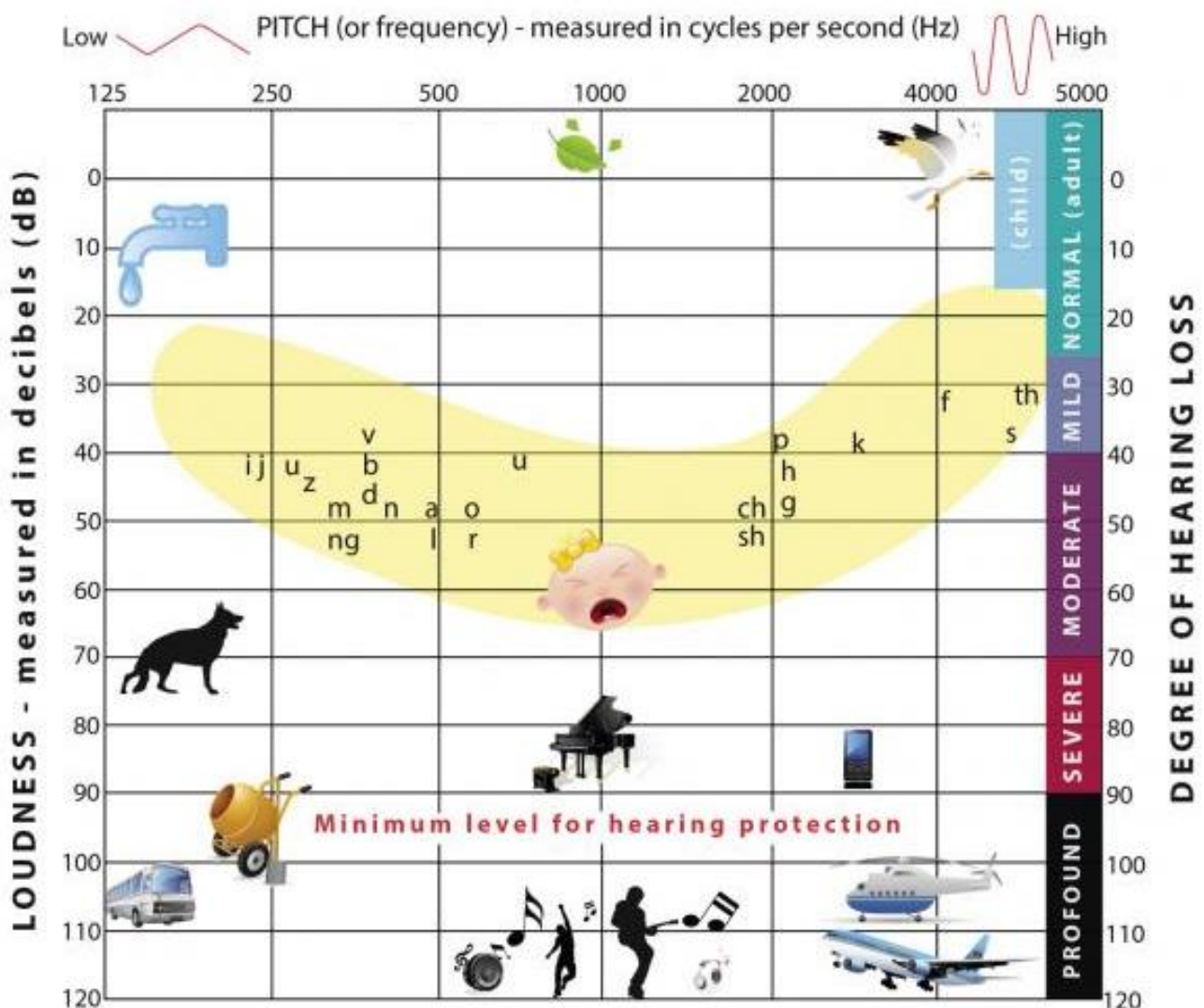
**Profound loss:** A profound hearing loss means that your baby has little useful hearing. Your baby will be unable to hear your voice whether they are close to you or at a distance. They will find it difficult to hear very loud sounds such as a lawn mower or traffic sounds but they will be able to feel the vibration of such sounds. They will struggle to hear speech which will result in your baby having little language exposure which will result in

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speech and language difficulties. To help with speech development and your child's hearing it is likely that hearing aids will be recommended.

If hearing aid devices are fitted by the time the child is six months then this will give them the best possible chance of developing their speech.

The Chart below is known as a speech chart. The results obtained at the hearing test can be plotted on this chart to give an understanding of what your baby can hear and what sounds they will be struggling with:



“[Speech banana](#)” by [Iain Butler](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC 3.0](#)

## Patient Information

We have/have not discussed the implications of your baby's hearing loss today.

We have/have not discussed amplifications options such as hearing aids today.

We did/did not introduce you to the Family Support Worker today.

We did/did not explain the role of the Sensory Support team.

We introduced you to the Family Support Worker and you were happy to meet with them today.

We explained the role of the Sensory Support team and you were happy for them to contact you in a few days' time.

We explained the role of the Sensory Support team today but you did not wish them to contact you.

We explained the role of the Sensory Support team and the Family Support Worker today but you did not wish to meet team today.

We did/did not explain the role of the Ear, Nose and Throat consultant today.

We explained the role of the Ear, Nose and Throat consultant today but you did not wish us to refer your baby to the ENT clinic today.

Any additional details

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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.

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