

Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders (Audiology)

Your Child's Hearing Test and Hearing Aid Review

Your child has been invited to the Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders today for a hearing aid review. Please feel free to bring a friend or relative but it is advisable not to bring other young children to this appointment to avoid any distractions for the child who is being fitted with hearing aids.

This appointment is six monthly or yearly and is necessary to check your child's hearing levels and check the fit and comfort of their hearing aids.

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust is a teaching centre and there may be a health professional trainee present in the clinic. If you do not wish them to attend then please inform the clinic staff when you arrive.

At your child's hearing aid review we will perform a series of tests to ensure your child is getting the best from their hearing aids. An explanation of each test is included with this information sheet. The tests may include the following:

- Hearing test
- Hearing aid testing
- Real ear measurements
- Aided thresholds
- Ling tests



Patient Information

- Impressions
- Hearing aid repair

The hearing aid review appointment may take up to an hour and a half. The tests are painless and do not have any side effects.

At the hearing aid review there may be one or two audiologists present and they will explain everything before they start and answer any questions that you may have.

The Hearing Test

A hearing test is a simple, painless method of looking at the pathways of the ear. Your child will be seen by an audiologist and the appointment will be conducted in either a sound proof or sound treated room.

A set of headphones or ear phones will be placed over your child's ears. Through these headphones they will hear a series of bleeps and tones and will be asked to press a button every time they hear a sound. We are looking for the quietest sound that they can hear so it is important that they press even when the tone or bleep is really faint.

For a younger child the hearing test may be amended and your child will be asked to put a peg on the board every time they hear a sound.

When testing with headphones or earphones, 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, another device called a bone conductor is placed behind the ear. As with the headphones they will be asked to press the button every time 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.

Hearing Aid Testing

In order to check that the hearing aids are mechanically sound we run the hearing aids through a test box. This checks that they are working satisfactorily and to their specification. If a problem is detected then the hearing aids will be swapped for new ones.

Real Ear Measurement

This enables us to fine tune your child's hearing aids. After examining your child's ears a small tube is placed into your child's ear canal. It may tickle the ear a bit! A measurement is then taken of the size of your child's ear canal. It takes seconds. Using this information we can now fine tune your child's hearing aids to suit them better and for the hearing aids to work optimally for your child's hearing loss.

Aided Thresholds

This is like a hearing test but is performed whilst your child is wearing their hearing aids. This time however the sounds will be delivered via a loud speaker and once again your child will be asked to press a button or put a peg on the board when they hear a sound. Once again we are trying to find the quietest sound your child can hear but this time whilst wearing their hearing aids

Ling Tests

This is usually done whilst the child is wearing their hearing aids. The audiologist will sit in front of your child about one metre away and will make sounds and will ask your child to copy the sounds. The Ling test assesses what speech sounds your child can hear whilst wearing the hearing aids

Impressions

Unless your child has had moulds taken recently, we will take an impression of both ears. The audiologist will first look down your child's ears to check for wax and to make sure the ear is clear. If there is wax or debris, with you and your child's permission and if the ENT doctors are available, we will take you to see one of the ENT doctors to get the wax/debris removed. If the ENT doctor is not available then we may ask

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you to seek your GP's advice for wax removal. We may not be able to take impressions until this has been done.

If the ears are clear then the audiologist can go ahead and take impressions. A soft foam tip will be placed into your child's ear. This protects the ear drum. The audiologist will then mix the impression material and put it into an applicator and then squeeze the impression material into the ear. The impressions will stay in the ear for a few minutes whilst it sets. This process although it may feel strange, is not painful. If your child has had any previous operations on their ears it is important to tell the audiologists before the impression is taken.

If you need any further information please contact the Centre on 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.

This Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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