

Your child's hearing assessment

– what you need to know

Audiology Department

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Website: www.royaldevon.nhs.uk/services/audiology-hearing-tinnitus-and-balance/audiology-northern-services

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net.

What is an Audiologist?

An Audiologist is someone specially trained to test hearing.

What will happen during the appointment?

Usually there will be 2 Audiologists present for the appointment, they will ask you some questions about your child's general health and about any observations you may have about their hearing and speech and language development. They will have a look in your child's ears.

A test called a Tympanogram may be recorded. This is a quick test which takes a matter of seconds but your child will need to be sat very still, possibly on your lap if they are very young. A small tip is placed at the entrance of the ear canal and a change in pressure records how well the eardrum is moving, your child will just hear a low humming sound.

The next test is dependent on the age and ability of your child.

Children from the age of 7-8 months to around 3 years old will have a test called 'Visual Reinforcement Audiometry' (VRA).

Your child will be sat on your lap or on a chair of their own at a small table and there will be a speaker and toy cabinet to the side.



One Audiologist will engage your child with some small toys at the table, the other Audiologist will be sat at the computer controlling the sounds and the toy cabinet. Different sounds will be presented and the toy in the cabinet lights up as a reward when your child turns to the sound. If your child will allow, we may also record some responses with a small foam eartip in the ear.

Children over the age of 3 years may be able to have an Audiogram (most children can do this by the age of 4). This test involves wearing headphones and either putting a brick in a box or pressing a button when they hear a sound.

What will happen to my child's hearing test results?

You will be given a report to take with you when you leave, however if this is not possible on the day it will be sent to you in the post.

A copy of the test results, as well as an accompanying letter, will always be sent to the person who referred your child to the Audiology Department and copies sent to relevant health professionals who are involved with your child's care. You will have the option of receiving a copy of the letter. A copy of the hearing test is also stored in your hospital records and on the Audiology database.

How to contact us?

If you have any queries about your appointment or problems as a result of the test/procedure or about your hearing aid(s), then you can contact the Audiology Department on **01271 322476**, between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday. Alternatively, you can email us at rduh.audiology@nhs.net.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website www.careopinion.org.uk.

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