



Happier | Healthier | Hopeful

Children's Audiology

Hearing tests for children

The Children's Paediatric Audiology Department is here to test the hearing of all ages of children from birth right through to school leaving age.

Children are offered an appointment because either:

- there is some concern about their speech or hearing; or
- they have had a hearing screening test in school by an audiometrician (the hearing screener) who has advised further testing.

Hearing loss

Most babies have their hearing tested shortly after birth.

Permanent childhood hearing loss is actually quite rare; around 1 to 2 babies in every 1000 are born with a hearing loss in one or both ears.

Temporary hearing problems are very common in childhood, and many factors can contribute including coughs, colds and ear infections. This is the type of problem most commonly found during the school hearing test.

How to access the service

We accept referrals from GPs, health visitors, school nurses, speech and language therapists and from parents themselves.

What happens at the appointment?

When a child attends the Audiology Clinic they will have their ears examined and tests will be performed to determine their hearing level. The type of test depends on the age and ability of the child or young person.

From 6 months onwards: Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA)

Sounds of different frequencies and loudness are played through speakers. When the child hears the sound, they will turn their head and a visual 'reward' is activated, such as a toy lighting up. Little earphones can be used to test each ear separately.

From 2.5 years onwards: Play Audiometry

Sounds of different frequencies and loudness are played through earphones or headphones and the child is shown how to move a toy (e.g. man in a boat, peg in a board) each time they hear a sound.

From 4 years onwards

As the child gets older they are asked to respond to sounds by pressing a button.



After the test

The audiologist (the person performing the test) will be able to explain the test results at the end of the appointment and can give you a copy of the results. You can then talk about any further appointments that may be needed.

Find out more about children's hearing

NHS Choices

www.nhs.uk/Livewell/hearing-problems/Pages/hearing-problems.aspx

National Deaf Children's Society

Support and information about childhood deafness.

www.ndcs.org

Newborn Hearing Screening Programme

What tests to expect, and when.

www.gov.uk/guidance/newborn-hearing-screening-programme-overview

British Society of Audiology

About the ear, and how it works.

www.thebsa.org.uk/public-engagement/hearing-balance/

Contact us

Penrith area

Penrith Health Centre
Bridge Lane
Penrith CA11 8HX
01768 245616

Whitehaven area

Footsteps CDC
West Cumberland Hospital
Whitehaven CA28 8JG
01946 68618

Workington / Wigton areas

Workington Community Hospital
Park Lane
Workington
CA14 2RW
01900 705239/ 01900 705248

Carlisle area

London Road Community Clinic
Hilltop Heights
London Road
Carlisle CA1 2NS
01228 608029

South Lakes area

Kinta House
Helm Close
Kendal LA9 7HY
01539 718157

Furness area

Ulverston Community Health Centre
Stanley Street
Ulverston LA12 7BT
01229 48404

Confidentiality

'The Trust's vision is to keep your information safe in our hands'.

We promise to use your information fairly and legally, and in-line with local and national policies. You have a right to understand how your information is used and can request a copy of the information we hold about you at any time.

For further information contact the Information Governance Team on 01228 608998 or email Information.Governance@cumbria.nhs.uk

Feedback

We appreciate and encourage feedback, which helps us to improve our services. If you have any comments, compliments or complaints to make about your care, please contact the Patient Experience Team.

Email: PET@cumbria.nhs.uk Tel: 01228 602128 Freephone: 0800 633 5547

If you would like this factsheet in another language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio, please call: **01228 603890**
E: communications.helpdesk@cumbria.nhs.uk

Or write to Engagement and Communications
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