

Newborn hearing screening

A guide for parents and carers



Ear Care and Audiology Services

patient**information**



The Rotherham
NHS Foundation Trust

Newborn hearing screening

Your Appointment is at:

Primary Ear Care and Audiology

Rotherham Community Health Centre

Greasbrough Road

Rotherham

Telephone: 01709 427548

Date:

Time:

If you are unable to attend the appointment at the above date and time please call **01709 427548** so that we can re-arrange the appointment to a time that is more convenient for you.

It is very important that you attend the appointment in case further investigation into your baby's hearing is needed.

About **2 to 3 babies in every 100** do not show a clear response on the hearing screen.

If the screening results do not show a clear response from one or both of your baby's ears an appointment will be made with Audiology to see an Audiologist.

An Audiologist should see you within 4 weeks of having your baby's hearing screening.

Newborn hearing screening

The Newborn Hearing Screening Programme

Aims to identify permanent, moderate, severe or profound hearing impairment in newborn babies so advice and support can be given right from the start.

Hearing loss

One to two babies in every 1,000 are born with a permanent hearing loss in one or both ears. Most of these babies are born into families with no history of hearing loss.

Finding out early can give these babies a better chance at developing speech and language skills and will help babies make the most of relationships with families and carers from an early age.

When is it done?

You will be offered the hearing screening whilst your baby is in hospital before discharge or invited to attend an appointment at a later date.

Can these tests harm my baby?

There are no risks associated with having this screen.

Possible results

If your baby has a clear response in both ears then they are unlikely to have a permanent hearing loss. However, newborn hearing screening does not pick up all types of hearing loss and children can develop hearing loss later on.

Newborn hearing screening

It is important to check your child's hearing as they grow up. The checklist in your baby's personal child health record ('red book')

How is the hearing screening done?

The AOA (automated otoacoustic emission) screen takes a few minutes.

A small soft tipped earpiece is placed in your baby's ear and soft clicking sounds are played. When an ear receives sound, the inner part (called the cochlea) responds and this can be picked up by the screening equipment.

Most babies sleep right through the hearing screening

It is not always possible to get clear responses from the first screen. It can be because:

- your baby was unsettled when the screen was done
- there was background noise
- your baby has fluid or a temporary blockage in their ear - this is very common and passes with time
- or it could mean your baby has a hearing loss

In these cases your baby will be offered another screen. This may be the same as the first screen, or another screen called the AABR (automated auditory brainstem response). This involves 3 small sensors being placed on your baby's head and neck. Soft headphones are placed over your baby's ears and soft clicking sounds are played. It can take between 5 and 15 minutes.

How to contact us

Rotherham Ear Care
and Audiology Department

Rotherham Community Health Centre

Greasbrough Road
Rotherham
S60 1RY
01709 423145

Rotherham Hospital Switchboard

Telephone 01709 820000

Useful contact numbers

**If it's not an emergency,
please consider using a
Pharmacy or call NHS 111
before going to A&E.**

Action on Hearing Loss

Telephone/Textphone:

01709 514268

Sensory Services Department

Telephone 01709 822330

Connevans

Telephone 01737 247571

NHS 111 Service

Telephone 111

Health Info

Telephone 01709 427190

Stop Smoking Service

Telephone 01709 422444

UECC (A&E)

Telephone 01709 424455

**For GP out of hours,
contact your surgery**

Useful websites

www.NDCS.org.uk

www.earcarecentre.com

www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.gov.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.connevans.co.uk

www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk

www.tinnitus.org.uk

Easyread websites

www.easyhealth.org.uk

www.friendlyresources.org.uk

www.easy-read-online.co.uk

We value your comments

If you have any comments
or concerns about the services
we have provided please
let us know, or alternatively
you can contact the
Patient Experience Team.

Patient Experience Team

The Oldfield Centre

The Rotherham NHS

Foundation Trust

Rotherham Hospital

Moorgate Road

Rotherham

S60 2UD

Telephone: 01709 424461

Monday to Friday

9.00am until 5.00pm

Email: your.experience@nhs.net

Produced by Mrs Mandeep Kahlon

Date Produced: August 2018. Revised: July 2020. Revision Due: July 2022. Version: 2.0

©The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust 2020. All rights reserved.



LS 07/2020 V2 Jones & Brooks



The Rotherham
NHS Foundation Trust

Rotherham Hospital
Moorgate Road
Oakwood
Rotherham
S60 2UD

Telephone 01709 820000
www.therotherhamft.nhs.uk