



Your newborn baby's hearing screen result

First screen result

Screen results for:

Screeener:

Date:

Right Ear: Left Ear:

The newborn hearing screen gives an indication of how your baby hears in each ear at the time of the screen.

Your baby has returned a 'refer' result at their first newborn hearing screen.

A 'refer' result requires the hearing screen to be repeated. It does not necessarily mean that your baby has a hearing problem, but it is important to make sure.

The initial screen result can be affected by:

- the presence of fluid or other matter that has entered the ear canal during the birth process
- temporary middle ear fluid
- your baby being too restless at the time of the screen.

As it is very hard to tell how a young baby can hear by watching their behaviour, it is important that the hearing screen is repeated.

What if your baby has a REFER result at the follow-up newborn hearing screen?

If a pass result is not obtained in both ears at the follow-up screen, your baby will be referred to a paediatric audiologist to test if your baby has a hearing problem.

The audiologist will conduct a comprehensive hearing assessment. If there is a hearing problem, the tests will also show whether it is likely to be temporary or permanent and your baby will receive appropriate intervention/management.

Hearing loss in both ears

If a baby has a hearing loss in both ears (bilateral hearing loss), the development of speech and language may be delayed.

Studies indicate that deaf and hearing impaired children do much better if they can receive speech and language support by 3-6 months of age.

Hearing loss in one ear

If a baby has a hearing loss in one ear and normal hearing in the other (unilateral loss), speech and language development can occur normally.

However, children with a unilateral loss can experience some difficulty in:

- understanding speech when there is other background noise
- locating where a sound is coming from.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

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