

The Pre-School Check

At 3-4 years

Another routine screen is recommended just prior to school entry. Children of this age group are particularly susceptible to hearing problems due to middle ear fluid. Good hearing is essential for learning in the noisy classroom environment. Even a mild hearing problem left undetected, can significantly affect your child's academic development.

This test requires:

- About thirty minutes
- Your child to be happy and alert
- Specialist equipment available at The Portland Hospital.

The second and the third test will be performed as an Outpatient appointment in the Audiology Department.

Contact

For further information or to book an appointment, please contact the Audiology department.

When booking an appointment please have your baby's date of birth and the name of the Consultant Paediatrician ready.

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Audiology

Hearing Tests for Babies & Young Children



The Portland Hospital
for Women & Children



The Portland Hospital
for Women and Children

Introduction

Hearing is essential to communication. In the early years of life children will learn important things about their environment including language and social interaction. A large proportion of this learning is through hearing and consequently the value of early and regular hearing checks in children is universally recognised.

The checks outlined in this leaflet should be performed in sequence to ensure your child's hearing is tested at regular intervals.

A doctor's referral is not necessary for any of these hearing tests, unless it is a requirement of your insurance company. Results are available immediately and reported to your Consultant Paediatrician or GP.

The First Hearing Check

2-3 days after birth

Hearing is measured using a sophisticated technique while your baby sleeps. A small probe placed in the ear records a barely audible response, via a tiny microphone, giving information about the hearing for a range of sounds important for understanding speech.

This test requires:

- Approximately fifteen minutes
- Your baby to be asleep
- Quiet surroundings

You will be informed of the test results immediately.

This hearing test is available to all mothers who have delivered at The Portland Hospital during their postnatal stay. It can be performed either in the postnatal room or in the nursery if sufficiently quiet. For mums who are discharged over the weekend or choose to stay in the hospital for two nights after their delivery the service is available as an Outpatient appointment.

The Second Hearing Test

At 7-8 months

By now your baby is active and will soon begin their first words. Testing children at this age allows us to detect mild degrees of hearing loss that may not be obvious to you in your child's actions or development progress.

The test requires:

- Approximately thirty minutes
- Your baby to be happy and alert
- A special test booth, available at The Portland Hospital