

Otoscopy:

The Doctor or Audiologist will attempt to examine your child's ear canals and ear drum using a special torch known as an otoscope.

Tympanometry:

This test involves putting a soft rubber tip into the entrance of your child's ear. The machine then gently puffs air into the ear to help it measure how well your child's eardrum is moving. This takes less than a minute to complete and is completely painless. The results can tell us if your child has any congestion behind the eardrums (known as glue ear), and tells us about your child's middle-ear function



Finding out more

The Doctor or audiologist will answer any questions you have after at any point during the appointment. If you would like more information you can contact the following people:

Appointments in Keir Hardie Health Park or Ysbyty Cwm Cynon:
Beth 01443 443443 Ext 5307

Appointments in Royal Glamorgan Hospital or Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda:
Rhiannon Jones, 01443 443443 ext 75306

You can also contact the National Deaf Society (NDCS). The society has a helpline for parents and families who would like information about hearing tests and any type of childhood hearing loss.

NDCS Freephone helpline:
0808 800 8880
NDCS website: www.ndcs.org.uk



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Your Child's
Hearing
Assessment



IF YOU REQUIRE AN INTERPRETER FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT PLEASE ADVISE US USING THE CONTACT DETAILS ON THE BACK PAGE

Welcome to your Child's Hearing Assessment

This leaflet is for parents of a child who has been sent to you because your child has been referred to the Audiology Department for hearing assessment.

Who will I see at the appointment?

All children will be tested by a qualified Audiologist. A Community Paediatric Doctor will also be present at some appointments, depending on the needs of your child.

What will happen at the appointment?

The appointment will begin by the Doctor or Audiologist asking you some questions about your child's hearing and general health, and giving you opportunity to tell them about any concerns you have.

Following this tests to assess your child's hearing and function of their middle-ear will be performed.

Once testing is complete the results will be explained to you, giving you opportunity to ask any questions. An appropriate management plan will also be discussed and agree with you.

The Tests that we do

During the appointment we will complete one, or a combination of tests appropriate to the age of your child, in order to determine their hearing levels and identify any Hearing difficulties. This may involve more than one visit to the clinic in order to build up a full set of results and/or to monitor your child's hearing.

Visual Reinforcement Audiometry

Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA) is used to measure hearing levels of children aged approximately six months to two and a half years. VRA requires the child to either sit in a special supportive chair or a parents lap while a 'distracter' sits in front of them to keep the child's attention forward using simple toys. A second tester is positioned out of sight and presents sounds at different volumes through speakers or headphones. The child is rewarded for turning to the direction of the sound by activating a small light-up toy or animation positioned in line with the speaker. Only rewarding the child for turning when a sound is presented helps to reinforce their response and allows us to measure a the quietest level at which a child will respond at each pitch of sound in each ear.

Play Audiometry

For children aged approximately 2-4 years Play Audiometry is used to assess the quietest sounds, at different pitches, a child is able to hear. Your child will be asked to perform a simple task such as dropping plastic counters into a bucket to indicate that they have heard a sound. Sounds may be presented through a loudspeaker or through headphones.

Pure Tone Audiometry (PTA)

For older children and adults PTA is used to assess hearing. Sounds are played through different types of headphones and your child will be asked to press a button in response to sounds at different pitches and volumes. This enables us to assess the quietest sounds that they are able to hear.

