

Audiology Appointment

Baby's Name:

Date:

Time:

Address:

Telephone:

Contact Person:

Hearing Loss Family Support Facilitator

Telephone: **1800 352 075**

What if my baby doesn't have a hearing loss?

Even if the diagnostic hearing tests show that your baby does not have a hearing loss, just like all children, it's still important to keep an eye on your baby's hearing.

Some babies whose diagnostic hearing tests show normal hearing have risk factors for types of hearing loss that take longer to appear.

Your Audiologist will let you know if this is the case for your baby and will offer another diagnostic hearing test sometime before your baby's first birthday.

The timing of the test will depend on your baby's specific needs. Even though very few babies with these risk factors will develop a hearing loss, it is still important for your baby to have this extra hearing test.

Remember that a child's hearing can be tested at any age. If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, contact your baby's doctor or staff at your local clinic and ask for a referral to an Audiologist to have your child's hearing tested.



Who are the Queensland Hearing Loss Family Support Facilitators?

The Queensland Hearing Loss Family Support Facilitators, offer support to families of babies referred to audiology for diagnostic hearing testing.

The Family Support Facilitators can help in a number of ways, including;

- working with you to overcome any difficulties you may have in getting to your audiology appointments;
- helping you access the Patient Transport Scheme if you are eligible;
- providing information and assistance through the stages of diagnostic hearing testing;
- helping you connect with other professionals and services where necessary; and
- staying in touch to make sure things progress as smoothly as possible.

If your baby is found to have a permanent hearing loss, a Family Support Facilitator will be available to work with you and your family over an extended time. The Family Support Facilitators have specialist training in psychology, social work or counselling.

The Family Support Facilitator service is free to all families regardless of whether your baby was born in a public or a private hospital, or whether your baby goes to a public or private audiology service.

If you are not contacted by the Family Support Facilitator Service, you can call them on **(1800 352 075)**

Your Baby's Audiology Hearing Test



Your baby has been referred to an Audiologist for further hearing tests.

This brochure explains why your baby has been referred and what will be involved.



Picking up a hearing loss at an early age provides the best opportunity to assist your child's speech and language development and future learning.

My baby has had a 'refer' result on two hearing screens. What does this mean for my baby?

This means your baby's hearing screening was not able to rule out a hearing loss. Because of this your baby has been referred to an Audiologist for a full hearing test (diagnostic hearing assessment). Ideally, babies with a 'refer' result on both ears should be seen by an Audiologist within two weeks of their second hearing screen. Babies with a 'refer' result on one ear should be seen by an Audiologist within six weeks.

A Queensland Hearing Loss Family Support Facilitator can help with arrangements to attend the audiology appointment. If you have any questions or concerns before the hearing tests, you can discuss these with your Audiologist or Family Support Facilitator.

There can be a number of reasons for a baby to have a 'refer' result on hearing screening. Your baby may have;

- a temporary or permanent hearing loss;
- had fluid or a temporary blockage in their ear after birth, that may have affected their hearing at the time of the hearing screen;
- been unsettled during both hearing screens; or
- experienced background noise during your baby's screens.

What is an Audiologist?

An Audiologist is a specialist who has skills and equipment for carrying out detailed hearing testing.

What are diagnostic hearing tests?

Diagnostic hearing tests help to find out whether a baby has normal hearing or a hearing loss. If a baby has a hearing loss, diagnostic testing will show:

- whether the hearing loss is temporary, or permanent;
- the level or degree of hearing loss (this can range from mild to total hearing loss); and
- whether the hearing loss is in one or both ears.

It often takes more than one appointment to get all the information about your baby's hearing.

It is best to make sure you have an appointment for your baby's diagnostic hearing tests as soon as possible.

What will happen during the diagnostic hearing tests?

The Audiologist will complete a number of different hearing tests. Each test will check a different part of your baby's hearing system. Your Audiologist will explain each test.



These tests are not harmful to your baby.

How long will the diagnostic hearing testing take?

The time needed for diagnostic hearing testing will be different for each baby, but it can take as long as 3 hours. Although most babies don't need this amount of time, it's best to allow half a day just in case.

An important part of the diagnostic hearing test needs to be done while your baby is asleep because muscle movement interferes with the test process.

Your baby needs to arrive at the appointment AWAKE but tired and ready to sleep. Time is allowed in the appointment for your baby to settle.

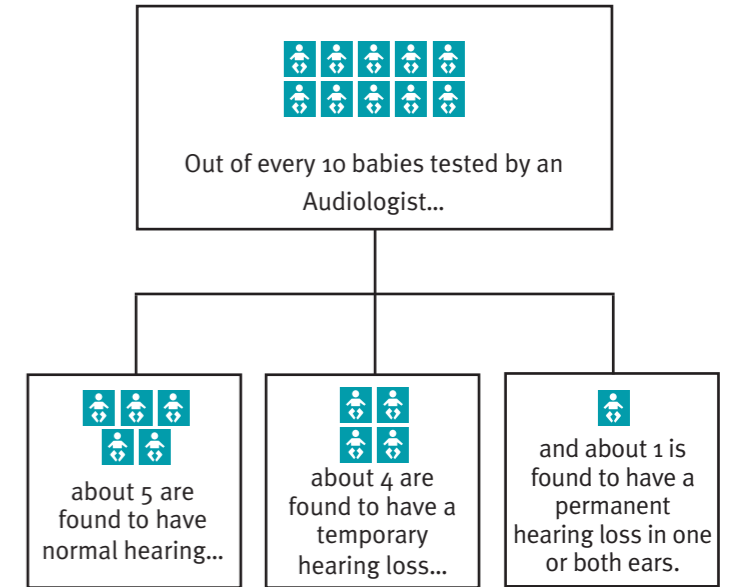
Your Audiologist will contact you by telephone or send you information on how to prepare your baby for the testing. It's important that you understand this information before the day of the appointment. Please call your Audiologist if you have not received this information or are not sure of what to do.



When will I know the results of the diagnostic hearing tests?

Your Audiologist will discuss the results of the hearing tests with you during each appointment.

What are the possible results of my baby's diagnostic hearing tests?



What if my baby has a hearing loss?

If your baby has a **temporary hearing loss** it may improve without the need for any treatment. Your Audiologist will want to see your baby again to see if the temporary hearing loss has gone away. If a temporary hearing loss does not go away, your Audiologist will recommend that your baby is seen by an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist.

If your baby has a **permanent hearing loss** your Audiologist and the Hearing Loss Family Support Facilitator will talk to you about the different processes and options that you may need to think about. They will also support you and your family to find out about the different services available.