



Understanding your child's hearing tests

Some hearing tests can be done which do not need a response from a person, this means they can be done on babies or young children. Tests can be done by either inserting a probe into a child's ear or by placing sensors on their head to see how an infant responds to sound. Some of these tests may require the child to be asleep.

Other hearing tests require a response from a child. For very young children, for example from eight months upwards, tests can be used which reward responses to sound with a moving toy. For toddlers, tests can be used which encourage a child to put a piece in a game/toy when they hear a beep. Older children can then begin to access hearing tests where they can indicate through words or signs that they have heard a sound. Tests will be able to ascertain the type of hearing difficulty, the severity and the sounds affected (it may be high sounds only, low sounds only or a range across different frequencies).

Audiologists are professionals who carry out tests of hearing. They are very experienced in knowing how to evaluate a child's hearing best. Sometimes, further assessments need to be carried out if a picture is not very clear cut from one assessment.

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