

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

If the tests show your baby does not have a hearing loss, it's still important to keep an eye on your baby's hearing.

Some babies may have risk factors for developing hearing loss as they get older. Your Audiologist will let you know if this is the case for your baby and they will arrange for another hearing check for your baby sometime before their first birthday if needed.

Even though only a small number of babies with risk factors develop a hearing loss, it is still important for your baby to have the extra hearing tests if recommended.

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

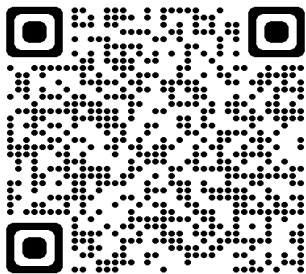
Healthy Hearing Family Support (HHFS)

Healthy Hearing Family Support (HHFS) offers support to families of babies referred to Audiology for diagnostic testing. A Family Support Facilitator will make contact with you, and will be available to work with you and your family over an extended time.

If you do not hear from HHFS, you can contact them on 1800 352 075.

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

For further information, scan the QR code below.



If you do not receive an audiology appointment within one week of your baby's second hearing screen, please contact the Audiology service you will be going to, or HHFS on 1800 352 075.

What if we can't make the appointment?

If you cannot attend your appointment, notify your Audiologist as soon as you can *before the appointment* to reschedule.

This Audiology testing is best done when babies are asleep and when they are very young. Where possible appointments should not be delayed.

How much will the appointment cost?

Public Audiology services perform free hearing testing for **Medicare** eligible babies, regardless of whether they were born in a public or private hospital. There may be costs involved for babies who are not covered by Medicare.

If you choose to go to a private Audiologist, we recommend you discuss costs with them before the appointment.

Your hearing screener will provide details of the Audiology services available in your area.

Healthy Hearing Program



Your Baby's Audiology 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.



Queensland Government

Why has my baby been referred to an Audiologist?

Your baby had a 'refer' result on their two hearing screens. This means the screening was unable to rule out a hearing loss, and your baby needs further hearing testing by an Audiologist.

As your baby referred on their hearing screen they could have:

- a permanent hearing loss;
- a temporary hearing loss due to fluid; or
- a temporary blockage in their ear after birth, that may have affected their hearing at the time of the hearing screen.

What is an Audiologist?

An Audiologist is a hearing specialist with the skills and equipment to perform detailed (diagnostic) hearing tests.

What are diagnostic hearing tests?

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

- whether it is temporary or permanent
- the level or degree of the hearing loss (ranging from mild to total hearing loss)
- whether the hearing loss is in one or both ears.

What will happen during the tests?

Your Audiologist will do a number of different tests. Each test checks a different part of your baby's hearing system. The Audiologist will explain each test during the appointment.

When will my baby need to be tested?

Babies with a 'refer' result for both ears should be tested within 2 weeks of their second screen. Babies with a 'refer' result for one ear should be tested within 6 weeks of their second screen.

How long will the testing take?

It will be different for each baby, but each appointment can take up to 3 hours. It is best to allow half a day for testing. It often takes more than one appointment to get all the information about your baby's hearing.

How do I prepare my baby for the tests?

Your Audiologist will call you or send you information on how to prepare your baby for testing.

Preparing your baby for the appointment is very important. Your baby needs to arrive at the appointment **awake**, but be tired and ready to sleep.

This is because most of the testing needs to be done while your baby is asleep.



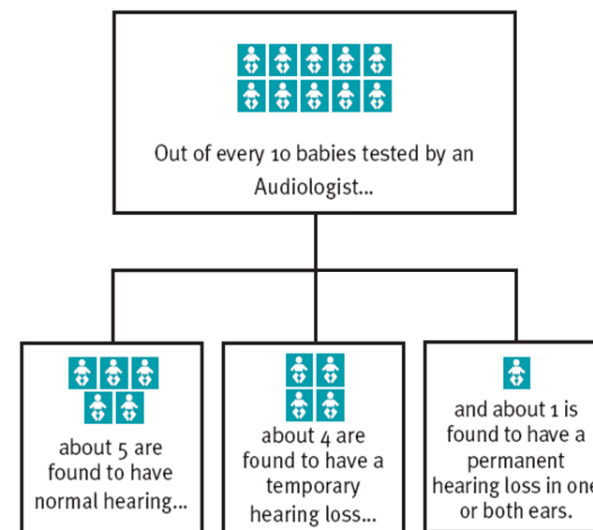
These tests are safe and harmless.

If you don't receive the preparation instructions, or you are unsure of what to do, it is important to contact the audiologist **before** the day of the appointment.

When will I know the results?

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**, your Audiologist will want to see them again to monitor their hearing. If the temporary hearing loss doesn't improve, the Audiologist will recommend your baby sees an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist.

If your baby has a **permanent hearing loss**, your Audiologist will refer your baby to some or all of the following:

- Childhood Hearing Clinic
- Ear Nose and Throat specialist
- Paediatrician
- Hearing Australia (for hearing aid fitting)
- Healthy Hearing Family Support (HHFS)
- other specialist services as required.