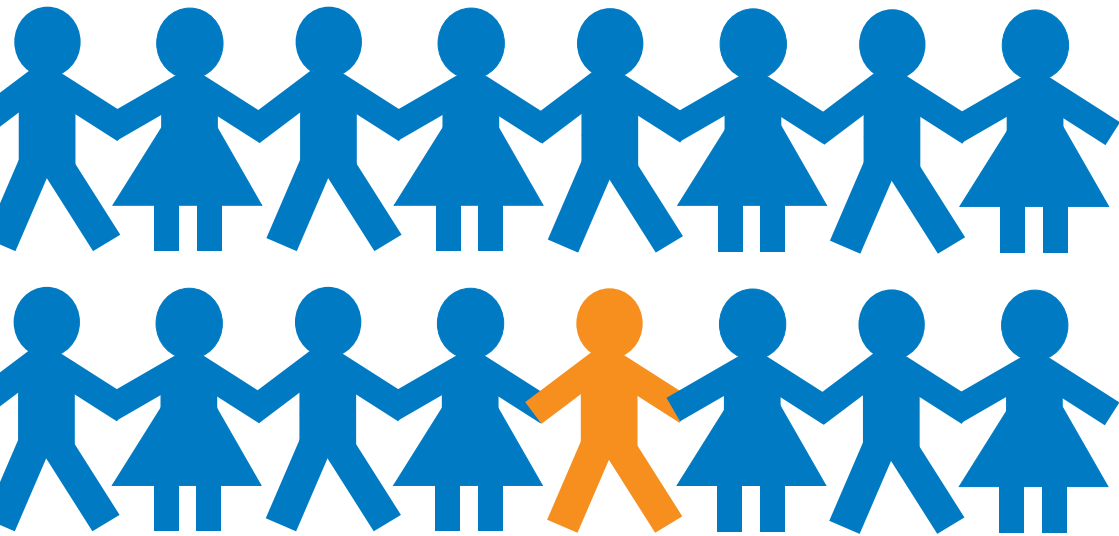




Bradford Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Paediatric **Audiology**

Hearing Assessment



Appointment Information

Your child has been referred to the Audiology Department to have a hearing test.

Who will I see at the appointment?

The hearing test will be performed by an Audiologist who specialises in testing children's hearing. When testing children under 5 years of age, the Audiologist may also be accompanied by a Healthcare Assistant or another Audiologist.

How long does the appointment last?

Appointment lengths may vary depending on individual patient needs. An average appointment takes approximately 20-30 minutes. Please ensure that you allow sufficient time prior to your appointment to park your car as parking is very limited at Bradford Royal Infirmary. A regular bus service runs from Bradford city centre to Bradford Royal Infirmary.

Can I bring other children to the appointment?

Hearing tests need to be performed in a quiet environment. Please make alternative arrangements for the care of other children / siblings where possible.

What will happen at the appointment?

The Audiologist will ask you questions to determine how well you feel your child can hear. They may also ask related questions about speech and language development, pregnancy and birth, illnesses and family history of hearing problems.



A tympanometry test may be performed by putting a soft tip in the ear to measure how well the eardrum can move.

What will happen at the appointment continued

The Audiologist will perform a hearing test to determine how well your child can hear a range of different sounds. The type of test performed will depend upon your child's developmental age.

- Children of developmental age 9 months – 2½ years are usually tested by teaching them when they hear a sound, if they turn, they get rewarded by seeing a toy lighting up. The quietest level at which they consistently respond to the noise is recorded.
- Children of developmental age 2½ years and over are taught to put a man in a boat, peg in a board or press a button when they hear a noise. The quietest level at which they consistently respond to the noise is recorded.

A tympanometry test may be performed by putting a soft tip in the ear to measure how well the eardrum can move. This may indicate if there is any fluid in the middle ear. This test usually causes no discomfort to the child.

Please feel free to ask your Audiologist about each test before it is carried out. The Audiologist will explain all the results obtained and a written copy of the results will be provided.

Types of hearing loss

A hearing loss may be due to a problem with any part of the hearing system.

- A problem in the ear canal or middle ear causes a conductive hearing loss. A common conductive hearing loss in children is caused by a build up of fluid in the middle part of the ear. This is commonly referred to as glue ear.

Types of hearing loss continued

In many children, glue ear resolves itself and does not require any treatment. For children with persistent glue ear, they are referred to an Ear, Nose and Throat doctor and treatment options will be discussed in the appointment as appropriate.

- A problem occurring in the cochlea or hearing nerve is a permanent hearing loss and is known as a sensorineural hearing loss. A sensorineural hearing loss can be mild, moderate, severe or profound and affect one or both ears.

What happens if my child has a hearing loss?

If your child is identified as having a hearing loss, a follow up appointment will be arranged to perform further investigations. This may include further hearing tests, referral to an Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor, referral to a Paediatrician or a school visit from a teacher of the deaf.

Additional Information

Please contact the department prior to the appointment if you require an interpreter or have any other specific physical or personal needs.

Please be aware Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a teaching hospital and as such you may be seen by a student under the direct supervision of a qualified Audiologist. If you would prefer not to be seen by a student, please inform us in advance of your appointment.

Contact Details

If you have any questions about this information leaflet or your child's Audiology appointment, please contact the Audiology Department:

Paediatric Audiology Department

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Bradford Royal Infirmary, Duckworth Lane
Bradford BD9 6RJ, West Yorkshire

Telephone: 01274 364827

Fax: 01274 382410

SMS Text: 07947 478944

We use Next Generation Text for people with hearing difficulties. To contact us ring 18001 01247 364827.

Email: paediatric.audiology@bthft.nhs.uk

Trust Website: www.bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk

Audiology office opening hours:

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5.00pm

Answerphone available for messages outside of opening hours.

Please enquire at the Paediatric Audiology Department should you wish to obtain this leaflet in an alternative language or format.

Smoke Free Policy

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke or use e-cigarettes in any of the hospital buildings or grounds.

Author: A.K.Singh on behalf of Bradford Teaching
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