



Bradford Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Paediatric **Audiology**

Assessment for a Hearing Aid

What happens next?



Why has your child been referred?

After consultation with a specialist at the Ear Nose and Throat Department, it was felt that due to your child's hearing difficulties he/she might benefit from a hearing aid and has been referred to the Paediatric Audiology Services, for this to be assessed.

What to expect when you attend for the initial hearing aid assessment appointment

Your next appointment will be with an audiologist specialising in children's hearing aids. At this appointment the audiologist will ask a number of questions about your child's hearing difficulties and an up to date hearing test will be performed. A hearing aid may be recommended to your child based on the results from this assessment. On some occasions the audiology department may request further information or assessment within your child's school.

If your child is experiencing hearing difficulties with a fluctuation in hearing levels (for example due to glue ear) and on the day of your appointment at the Audiology department your child's hearing levels are within normal limits or at a level where a hearing aid would not be appropriate, the audiologist may decide not to proceed with a hearing aid at this stage. In this case your child will be reviewed at the Audiology department and a hearing aid fitting may be considered in the future depending on your child's hearing levels at subsequent appointments.

The hearing aids issued to children by the NHS are behind the ear (BTE) digital hearing aids.



What do the hearing aids look like?

The hearing aids issued by the NHS are behind the ear (BTE) digital hearing aids (see picture). Various colour hearing aids are available and your child will be given a choice.

At your first audiology appointment, if a hearing aid is recommended, the audiologist will need to take an impression of your child's ear for a hearing aid earpiece (ear mould) which holds the hearing aid in place.

We will then arrange a second appointment for your child to be fitted with their hearing aid. At the hearing aid appointment the audiologist will fit the ear mould and hearing aid and will explain exactly how to use and look after it.

Will my child receive one or two hearing aids?

This will depend on the amount of hearing loss your child has in each ear. If a significant hearing loss is present in both ears it may be beneficial for your child to have two hearing aids.

Two hearing aids may help improve speech discrimination in background noise and localisation of sound when compared to using one hearing aid. Your audiologist will be happy to discuss this with you once they have completed the hearing assessment.

Things you can do to help your child

Below are some things that you and your child's teachers can do to help them with their hearing difficulty.

- Ensure that others with responsibility for your child – other carers, nursery assistants, school teachers are aware of your child's hearing difficulties.
- Make sure you have your child's attention and check your child is looking at you and listening when you are speaking.
- Speak clearly at a normal pace with a little increased volume but do not shout.
- Express yourself using gestures where necessary to support what you are saying.
- Check your child has heard and understands what you have said; encourage him/her to stop you if he/she has not heard you properly, asking for repetition if necessary.
- Sit the child closer to the teacher.
- Reduce background noise.

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 surrounding 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

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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.

Smoking Policy

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke in any of the hospital buildings or grounds, with the exception of the smoking shelters which are provided for visitors and patients only

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