Discharge with Direct Access

Community Paediatric Audiology Service
Today’s results
We saw your child for a hearing check today. Their hearing is satisfactory. Therefore, we have not made arrangements to see them again.

Temporary hearing problems in future
All children can experience a temporary hearing problem with a cold. This can last up to 6 – 8 weeks, even if the cold seems to have gone. This is normal and unavoidable. It tends to be less of a problem by 8 years of age.

What you can do to help
While waiting for a temporary hearing problem to clear, there are some useful things you can do to support your child.

• Inform others caring for your child that their hearing may be down. This includes nursery, school and childminders.
• Get your child’s attention, by touching them or saying their name, before speaking to them. It is easier for your child if they can see your face when you are speaking.
• Give clear simple instructions that are easy to follow.
• Try not to shout. Move nearer to them and repeat your message if they did not hear the first time. Shouting distorts your face and your child may think you are angry.
• Reduce the amount of noise in the background. This is usually the TV or radio. Background noise makes it harder to hear and listen.

Be aware that your child may become frustrated, aggressive, clingy, shy or tired from struggling to listen. It is possible that they have not heard you instead of being disobedient or naughty. They may hear some sounds better than others. Some days may seem better than others. This is normal for a temporary hearing problem.
Why we ask you to wait 8 weeks
Remember that temporary hearing problems with colds are normal in young children, particularly in winter. Having their hearing tested will not speed up the process of their hearing improving or change the support advice provided.

Waiting 8 weeks to see if the problem improves allows us more clinical time to see you quickly if needed.

What to do if there is no improvement
If you do not notice any improvement in your child’s hearing after 8 weeks then please feel free to contact us directly. This means that you do not need a new referral. You just need to give us a ring. We will send your child an appointment to check their hearing. Then we can advise you further. We usually arrange for your child to be seen quickly.

It is important to remember to see your GP if you suspect your child may have an ear infection. The information in this handout should not stop you from seeing your GP for further treatment or advice.
For further information about this service contact:

Community Paediatric Audiology Service
The Peacock Centre
Brookfield's Campus
351 Mill Road
Cambridge CB1 3DF

Tel: 01223 218066

If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net.

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.