

Advice following referral to the Paediatric Audiology Department at Addenbrooke's Hospital



Why has my child been referred for further testing?

Today's hearing test results suggest that your child may have a hearing loss. It's possible that this hearing loss could be permanent. We have therefore referred your child to the Paediatric Audiology Department at Addenbrooke's Hospital for further testing to clarify this.

What will happen at the next appointment?

Your child will be seen at Addenbrooke's Hospital in the Paediatric Audiology Department. At the appointment your child will have a hearing test similar to the test they had today and may require some additional tests. The Audiologists will explain all the results to you on the day.

How will I arrange the appointment?

The Paediatric Audiology Department at Addenbrooke's will contact you by letter with details asking you to telephone in to arrange an appointment for a time and day that is convenient for you.

What you can do to help?

The following tips can be helpful to support your child.

- Inform others caring for your child that their hearing may be reduced. This includes nursery, school and child minders.
- 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.
- Where possible reduce the amount of noise in the background. This is usually the TV or radio. Background noise makes it harder to hear and listen.
- When looking at books together sit so your child can see your face and the book.
- Try to spend some quiet time with your child. Use this time to talk and play with them. Not hearing well may be confusing for your child. This time together will help reassure them.

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.

What happens if the next appointment confirms that my child has a permanent hearing loss?

If results at the next appointment confirm your child has a hearing problem the Audiologist will discuss the results with you and the different management options. This may include hearing aids.

If you have any questions about the referral to Addenbrooke's before the appointment there please contact the Community Paediatric Audiology Department on the phone number below.

It is important to remember to see your GP if you suspect your child may have an ear infection. The information in this hand-out 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.