



Information for
patients and
carers

**Lancashire Paediatric Audiology
Service**

Information for your child's first appointment

Information about your appointment

Our Paediatric Audiology Service is part of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and specialises in the assessment and management of children's hearing, balance and processing difficulties.

You have been referred to our service as there is a concern regarding your child's hearing or development. The purpose of the appointment will be to rule out a hearing impairment or to determine if a loss of hearing is having an involvement in and developmental delays.

Tests are non-invasive and there is some information on the different types of testing later in this booklet. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact the service.

Please note: If your child has a programmable ventriculo-peritoneal (PVP) shunt please make the Audiologist aware at the assessment.

Who will you see?

You will be seen by one or two members of the Paediatric Audiology Team who are specifically trained to test children's hearing. Our team includes Consultant Paediatric Audiovestibular Physicians and Paediatric Audiologists.

Our Paediatric Audiologists are specially trained to assess and when required monitor your children's hearing. If needed manage your child's hearing with the use of hearing aid(s) to give them the most clarity and benefit.

Our Consultant Paediatric Audiovestibular Physicians are able to offer management advice and suggest any further investigations that may need to take place if and when required. They will liaise with any other professionals who may benefit you/your child's development and aided care.

The Hospital is a teaching hospital and on occasions a trainee may also be present in a clinic. If you would prefer not to have a trainee in your child's appointment, please let us know.

The extended team

We have five members of the clerical team who are our first point of contact for many of you. They are available between normal office hours to answer queries regarding appointments and referrals. They may take messages and have one of the Audiology team contact you back if they are not able to assist you in the first instance.

We also work closely with Audiology Specialist Health Visitors, Audiometricians, Associate Specialists in Audiology, nurse Practitioners who are based at the other clinics mentioned previously and we liaise with Teachers of the Deaf across Lancashire.

Some of these extended team members are based at other clinics and can take ear impressions or provide hearing aid sundries. They assist the Doctors during assessment appointments and can provide help for contacting support agencies.

- Blackpool: 01253 951591
- St Annes: 01253 951591
- Carnforth: 01524 591638
- Leyland: 01772 215560

Pre-appointment preparation

During the assessment we may use a variety of equipment to assess the functional hearing of your child. If they have not been tested before it can be helpful prior to the appointment to play some listening games with your child.

Asking them to respond to sounds or getting them to look for sounds in the room can make the child more familiar with the tasks that they will be asked to do in the clinic.

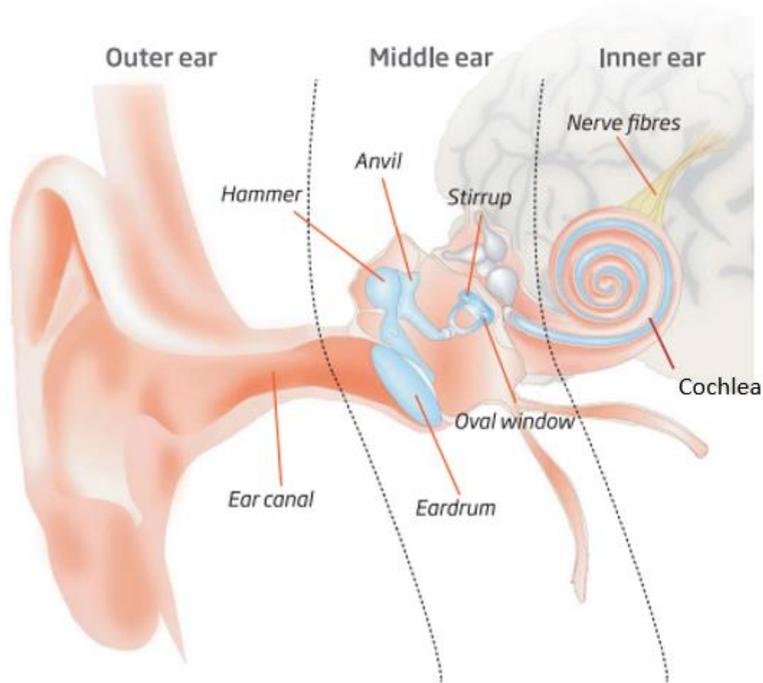
Playing games can help us to look in your child's ears. If your child has a toy medical kit at home, then practicing looking into the ears can help to familiarise them and can make this less strange in a clinic setting.

We may use headphones similar to the ones below, getting your child used to headphones before the appointment can help with the testing process. Trialling headphones in the home environment can reassure children that there is nothing to be afraid of in a clinic setting.



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How we hear



1. Sound enters the outer ear and travels through a narrow passageway called the ear canal, which leads to the eardrum
2. The eardrum vibrates and sends these vibrations to three tiny bones in the middle ear. These bones are called the malleus, incus and stapes, in school they often teach these names as the hammer (malleus), anvil (incus) and stirrup (stapes)
3. The bones in the middle ear amplify, or increase, the sound vibrations and send them to the cochlea, which is the spiral/snail-shaped structure in the diagram above (which is filled with fluid), in the inner ear
4. The vibrations cause the fluid inside the cochlea to ripple, causing hair cells to activate. Hair cells near the wide end of the

snail-shaped cochlea detect higher-pitched sounds, such as an infant crying. Those closer to the centre detect lower-pitched sounds, such as a large dog barking

5. As the hair cells move, they cause an electrical charge which will carry information along the auditory nerve
6. The auditory nerve carries this electrical signal to the brain, which turns it into a sound that we recognize and understand

Your child has been referred to the service to determine if there is an issue with one or more of these steps through the auditory system. If found, you will be talked through any management choices required/available.

What will we do?

History taking

We will ask you some questions about your child's hearing, the concerns around this from you or possibly teachers at school, relevant medical history questions and any family history of hearing problems.

You may have been sent a pre appointment questionnaire, if so, please ensure you bring this fully completed to the appointment.

We appreciate that you may have been asked some or all of these questions before, but it is important for us to get a full picture of your child's hearing issues.

Hearing tests

It is important that your child is alert and awake for most of the tests.

Depending on your child's age we will test their hearing by asking them to respond to sound in some way. This often includes some form of play, picture tests or moving toys from one pot to another. It can be helpful to practice listening games with your child at home before attending.

Some of the testing involves moving toys or flashing lights. If your child is upset by any of these things, please let us know when you come to the appointment.

If your child becomes upset easily in new environments or with new people, please bring along with them a favourite toy or comforter, as this can help to relax them in the testing rooms.

The hearing test needs to be carried out in a quiet room, if possible, it is best to attend with only the child being tested. It is not possible to leave other children unsupervised in the waiting area, but they are welcome to wait there if they are accompanied by an adult.

We will need to look in your child's ears to check they are healthy in appearance and free of any blockages. We will inform you of anything we notice.

We may do a test which checks for the mobility of the eardrum, this puts a very small puff of air into your child's ear to check the drums movement. This is followed by a tone. This does not hurt, but some children are surprised by the sensation.

We aim to make the assessment as relaxed for your child as possible, but appreciate that the environment is new, and that we may not be able to complete everything we need to in the first session, therefore we may reschedule another appointment if further tests are required.

For further information please see:

- <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/>
- <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/childhood-deafness/audiology-services/>
- <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/childhood-deafness/hearing-tests/>

Results

The results will be explained to you by the Consultant or Paediatric Audiologist, and any management plans discussed with you if required.

A period of review may be suggested for certain conditions before management is offered, and this will be explained to you and any relevant information given to you to review at home.

All the relevant professionals involved in your child's care will be informed of the findings with your consent.

How long will it take?

Appointments usually take 45 minutes and up to an hour. Appointments for children who have already been issued with a hearing aid can take up to 1 ½ hours.

We aim to see you on time but occasionally clinics can be slightly delayed. Please allow for this.

What happens if a hearing loss is detected?

Most children are found to have normal hearing or a temporary hearing loss associated with colds and middle ear congestion. A small number of children are found to have a permanent hearing loss and other difficulties associated with this.

For all children whose hearing difficulties affect their development, education or general wellbeing, we offer a highly specialised service providing hearing aids or other rehabilitation. We will discuss the management options available so you can make an informed choice on how you want to proceed.

Hearing aid fitting

The hearing aid fitting process is designed to ensure that hearing aids are fitted in a way to maximise the ability to hear, understand speech comfortably and communicate to the best of the individual's ability.

If needed we issue the most current digital hearing aids and give you full instructions. A further appointment would need to be scheduled for this.

What to do if you cannot attend the appointment

Please contact us as soon as possible if you cannot attend so that we can offer your child's appointment to another child.

If your child has a slight cold on the day of the appointment but is generally well in themselves, then it is fine to attend.

Communication

If English is your second language, or you sign, please contact the Audiology Office (01772 401310) if you require an interpreter.

Facilities available

Baby changing facilities and disabled toilets are available at all clinic locations.

Our other clinics

We hold clinics at other sites across Lancashire. These include Blackpool, St. Annes, Leyland, Carnforth and Morecambe. Clinic details and relevant maps for each clinic are available on request and are sent out with all initial appointments.

Views on our service

If you are satisfied we are providing a good service please tell us. If you are dissatisfied or feel we could improve the service we would value your comments. Patient feedback forms are available in reception, or if you prefer you can contact:

Chief Paediatric Audiologist on: 01772 410310 or
PALS (The Patient Advice and Liaison Service) on: 07591 988962 or
email: PALS@lthtr.nhs.uk

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact:

Paediatric Audiology Service
Fulwood Audiology Clinic
4 Lytham Road
Fulwood
PRESTON
PR2 8JB

Tel: 01772 401310 / 401312

Email: paediatric.audiology@lthtr.nhs.uk

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/paediatric-audiology-local-offer

www.ndcs.org.uk/family_support/childhood_deafness/hearing_tests/index.html

www.ndcs.org.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team.

If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دوسری زبانوں اور ریڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یچیھیہا جس یبھی دست ہو یسکت ہے براے مہر یبان پوے یچھدی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعة بأحرف كبيرة وبلغات إذا كنت تريد مساعدة في فهم هذه المعلومات يرجى أن تطلب أخرى يمكن توفير هذه المعلومات

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Division: Women and Children

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