

Easy Read



Sgrinio Clyw Babanod **Cymru**
Newborn Hearing Screening **Wales**

Your baby has a hearing loss



V1: August 24



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

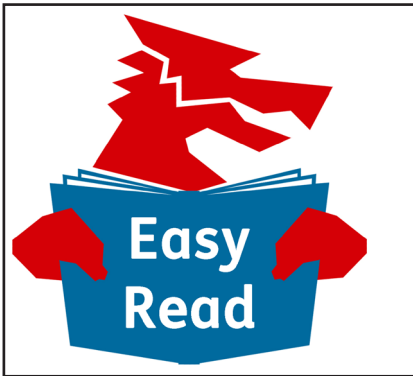
Iechyd Cyhoeddus
Cymru
Public Health
Wales

Scan here



www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening

How to use this leaflet



This is an Easy Read leaflet. The words are easy to read and understand. Words in **bold blue** writing may be hard to understand. Difficult words are in **bold** the first time they are used.



You may need help and support to read and understand this leaflet. Ask someone you know to help you.



This leaflet is available in Welsh.

Contents: What is in this leaflet

What is a hearing loss?

4

Levels of hearing loss

5

About the ear

6

Types of hearing loss

7

Support for you and your baby

11

Hearing aids

13

Communication

14

Going to school

15

Further support

16

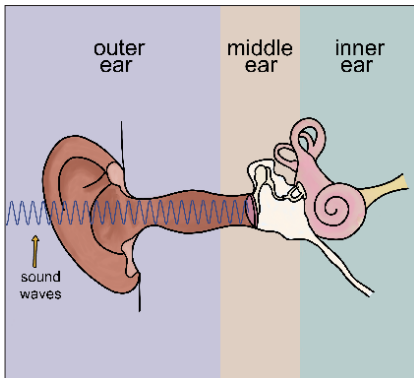
Where can I get more information?

17

Keeping healthy

18

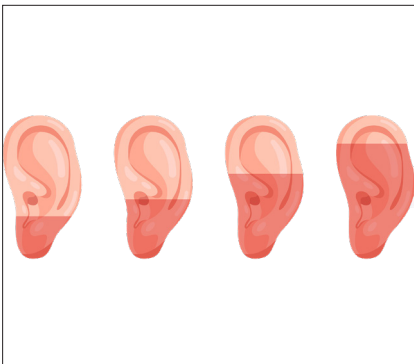
What is a hearing loss?



A hearing loss can happen when parts of the ear are not working properly.



This means your baby may not be able to hear as well as they should.



Hearing loss affects everybody differently.

There are different levels of hearing loss.

Levels of hearing loss



Mild - babies hear some speech sounds but quiet sounds are hard to hear.



Moderate - babies hear almost no speech when someone is talking normally.

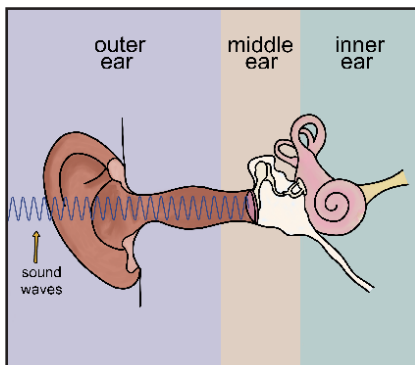


Severe - babies cannot hear someone talking normally. They may only hear some loud sounds.



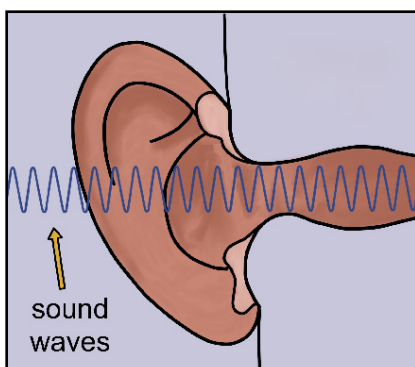
Profound – Babies cannot hear any speech. They may only hear very loud sounds.

About the ear



Your ear has three different parts:

- outer;
- middle; and
- inner.



Your ears turn sound into information.

This information is sent to your brain. This is how we hear.



Most babies will be able to hear some sounds.

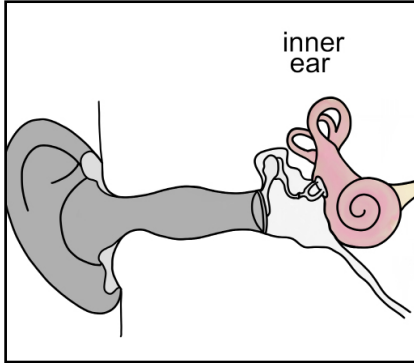


An **audiologist** can tell you which sounds your baby can hear or find hard to hear.

An **audiologist** is someone who knows a lot about hearing.

Types of hearing loss

There are different types of hearing loss.



You can have problems with your inner ear. It is called **Sensorineural hearing loss**.

Sensorineural hearing loss means what your baby can hear will not get better.



Most babies with this type of hearing loss are born into families who can hear.



In some families, hearing loss may be passed down from parents to their children.

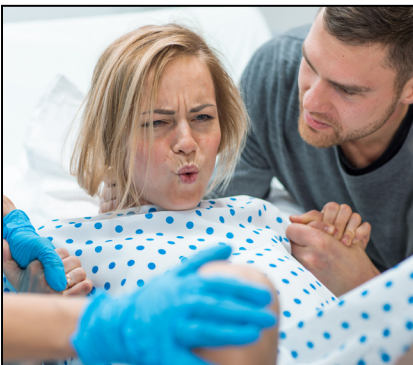
Babies might have inner ear problems because:



mum had an infection when they were pregnant with baby;



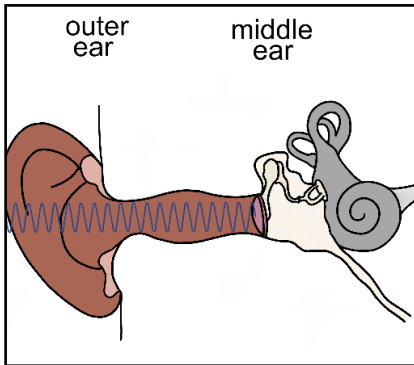
baby was born early;



mum had difficulties having baby;



of an illness like mumps, measles or meningitis.



You can have problems with your outer and middle ear. It is called **Conductive hearing loss**.

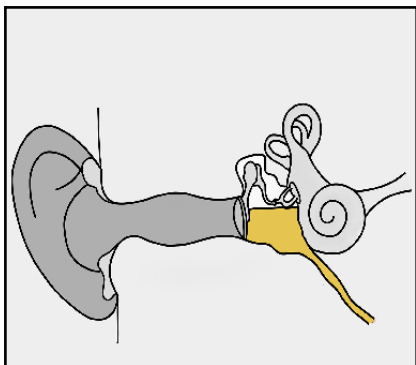
Conductive hearing loss means sound cannot easily travel through the ear.



For most babies, this type of hearing loss does not last. It might come and go.



In some babies, the hearing loss will not get better.



This hearing loss is often caused by **fluid** in the ear from birth.

This is known as glue ear. This is a very common and often treatable condition.



You can talk to a **specialist doctor**.

A **specialist doctor** is a doctor who knows more about children's hearing.



They work with your audiologist to find out why your baby cannot hear.

For some children, it may not be possible to find out why.

Support for you and your baby



We know this can be a worrying time.



Talk to the Early Years Support Team or someone you trust.



A **specialist** teacher is someone who has done extra training to teach children with a hearing loss.



A speech and language therapist is someone who can help children to **communicate**.



A social worker is someone who helps support families.



The Early Years Support Team will provide support to you and your baby.

Hearing aids



You and your audiologist may decide your baby has **hearing aids**.

Hearing aids may help your baby hear better.



Hearing aids will not be painful or uncomfortable for your baby to wear.



You will be given another appointment to have the hearing aids fitted.



Your baby's hearing and their hearing aids will be checked often.

Communication

Children with a hearing loss and their families communicate in different ways.



Some children will learn to use speech.



Some children will learn to use sign language.



Some children will learn to use a mixture of both.



It is very important to communicate with your baby as much as possible.

Going to school



Most children with a hearing loss go to a local school.



Some children may go to a specialist school.



These schools support children with a hearing loss.



A specialist teacher will make sure your child has the support they need.

Further support



There may be other support available to help you care for your baby.



This includes support about money.



You can get more information from:

- The Early Years Support Team;
- The National Deaf Children's Society;
- The Department for Work and Pensions;
- Citizens Advice.

Where can I get more information?



Phone:

South East Wales: 029 2184 3568

South West Wales: 01792 343364

North Wales: 03000 848710



E-mail:

newborn-hearing-screening@wales.nhs.uk



You can contact us in Welsh or English. It will take us the same amount of time to answer you whichever language you choose.



For more information about screening and the different tests, visit our website:

www.phw.nhs.wales/newborn-hearing-screening



You can also contact the National Deaf Children's Society.

www.ndcs.org.uk

Phone: 020 7490 8656

E-mail: ndcs@ndcs.org.uk

Keeping healthy



Go for screening when invited.



Keep up to date with you and your baby's **vaccinations** when offered.

A **vaccine** is a medicine that keeps you safe from catching an illness.



Stop smoking. You can get free help to support you to stop smoking.

Ring Help Me Quit on: **0800 085 2219**



Eat healthy food.



Move more.



Drink less alcohol.