

## What is a hearing test?

We can do hearing tests for people of all ages, including newborn babies!

It can be hard to tell when there is a hearing loss. You can have a hearing loss and still hear many things! Your GP can refer you or your child for a hearing test.

Our ears can hear low sounds like a cow's moo, and high sounds like a whistle. A hearing test checks how well you can hear many different sounds.

We need to hear many different sounds to understand speech. For example, "b" and "m" are low-pitched sounds, and "s" is a high-pitched sound.

Here is how we do different hearing tests for children:

**Newborns and babies** have a hearing test while they are sleeping.



- We put recording stickers on their head and play sounds into their ears.
- The stickers send a signal from their ears to the computer and let us know what the baby can hear.
- We need babies to sleep because if they move, it will affect the test results.

We use cartoons to test children from **8-30 months old**:



- Your child will sit on your lap, or on a chair
- We play them a sound and show them a cartoon until they turn to look for the cartoon when they hear the sound.
- We keep making the sound quieter until they stop looking for the cartoon.

We play games with children **3+ years old**:

- We teach children to use a toy to show us when they have heard a sound.
  - For example, they may put a plastic toy into a bucket, or put a peg in a board.



- We have a few different games to keep things fun for children!

If you are worried about your child's hearing, talk to your doctor about an audiology referral.