

What to do if you think a child has a hearing loss

Babies routinely have their hearing screened within the first few weeks after they are born as part of the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP). Sometimes a hearing loss can develop as children get older.

If you think your baby or child has a hearing loss, please speak to your Doctor, Health Visitor or School Nurse for advice. They will be able to arrange for hearing levels to be checked.

Signs to look:

Birth to 6 months:

Doesn't wake, stir or startle to a sudden loud sound

Doesn't pause and listen to noises when they begin

Doesn't respond to your voice (smiles or coos)

Doesn't show excitement to sounds eg footsteps, voices, music, sound-making toys etc

6 to 12 months:

Doesn't turn eyes toward sounds made out of sight

Doesn't make a range of babbling sounds

12 to 24 months:

Doesn't say single words

Doesn't seem to understand simple words

Doesn't respond if they can't see you

Hears some sounds but not others

Over 2 years old:

Is slow learning to talk and what they say isn't very clear

Often ask for things to be repeated

Often responds inappropriately to things you have asked them

Doesn't reply or come when you call them

Often talks loudly

Needs the TV on loud to be able to hear it

Watches and copies other people before doing something by themselves

When it is noisy or they are a long way away, they struggle to follow what people say

The Educational Team for Hearing and Vision are not carry out hearing assessments, this is done by our medical colleagues. Our team support children and young people once a hearing loss has been diagnosed and hearing aids have been given.