

The Educational Team for Hearing and Vision Cleethorpes Civic Offices, Knoll Street, Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire, DN35 8LN Tel: (01472) 323465 Minicom: (01472) 873986 Email: officeethy@nelincs.gov.uk



Your baby or child has been found to have a hearing loss

Finding your baby or child has a hearing loss can stir lots of emotions, questions and worries. We are here to help you understand your emotions, answer your questions and talk to you about your worries.

If you would like us to, we can help and support you while your baby or child has hearing aids.

We can show you how to look after the hearing aids and how to put them in your baby's or child's ears. The more your baby or child wears their hearing aids, the better their listening, talking and understanding is likely to be.

We can talk about the things you can do and the games you can play to encourage your baby or child to listen, learn and talk. Together we can see if your baby or child is reaching their milestones like other children of their age. If your baby or child is, then brilliant! If not, then we can look at what is stopping them and think about what needs to happen next.

We can decide together how often we would like to meet. This might be every week, every other week or less often. After we have met, we will send you a report so you have a record of what we have talked about. We may also leave information for you to look at and activities to do to help your baby learn to listen.

You will receive regular appointments for your baby or child to go to the Audiology Department at the hospital. This is so we can make sure they always have the most suitable hearing aids and really good fitting ear moulds. We will take the time to explain results, answer questions and talk about what needs to happen next. As your baby or child gets older and bigger, they won't need to go as often. It is important that you make every effort to attend all their appointments. If you would like, we can put you in touch with other parents who have babies and children with hearing aids and with other people who can help.

As your baby or child gets older, the way we help changes. If your baby or child goes to a child minder or nursery, then we can help you to show people there how to look after the hearing aids so they are worn. We want everyone to be confident with the hearing aids so they are worn and don't get lost. We can also suggest things they can do to encourage listening, learning and talking too.

When your child goes to school, we can carry on seeing them there. We help staff to understand about hearing loss, hearing aids and the things they need to do to make sure your child can hear and take part in lessons like everyone else. The amount of time we see your child will change as they become more independent with their listening, learning, talking and looking after their hearing aids. We like to give children and young people certificates to reward them for becoming independent.

Working together we can help your baby or child grow into an independent young person who is happy, confident and ready start school and eventually move on to adult life.

If you would like to find out more about what we do or what else is available for families locally, please look at our Local Offer on the North East Lincolnshire Council Website.

The web address is: <u>https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-and-local-offer/</u>

If you have any compliments, queries or questions, please get in touch. We would like to hear from you.

KJ May 2020