

Monday, 13 April 2015

## [Service Development and Screening](#)

AGE APPROPRIATE HEARING ASSESSMENT / DIAGNOSTIC TESTING GUIDANCE  
Issued by the Regional Newborn Hearing Screening Quality Improvement  
Group (March 2015)

### 1 Referral Pathway

Parental or professional concern regarding an infant/young child's hearing may be identified at any time. Where such concern is identified, direct referral should be made, irrespective of newborn hearing screening outcomes and with parental agreement.

- Under 6 months of age → paediatric otolaryngology/ENT
- 6 months up to 3 years → audiology services that provide visual reinforcement audiometry (VRA)
- Over 3 years → audiology services

Distraction testing (devised by health visitors) is not part of the Healthy Child, Healthy Future Programme. Distraction testing should only be carried out as part of a diagnostic audiological assessment in a controlled environment, by appropriately skilled staff.

### 2 Test Options

2.1 Under 6 months (referred per professional age (RA))

• Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) under natural sleep, especially for younger babies, not an ABR and 100% of evoked frequency spectra. If there is a hearing loss, bone conduction testing should also be performed.

- Where it has not been possible to obtain reliable ABR results, isolation or presentation should be used in line with national clinical guidelines, available at: [http://www.nhs.uk/clinicalguidelines/](#)

- Diagnostic otoscopy/otoscopic examination (OAE) autometry

- Behavioural testing—Visual Reinforcement Audiometry (VRA) around 7 months if the infant is close to this age. Take into account the urgency of hearing.

2.2 Over 6 months up to 2 years (referred per professional age (RA))

Use age specific and frequency specific stimuli. A significant hearing loss should be excluded. If age and frequency specific information cannot be obtained the child should be reviewed to rule out milder degrees of hearing loss.

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## Details

Format

A4 PDF

Target group

Health professionals

## Downloads

### Attachment

### Size

[Age Appropriate Hearing Assessment Diagnostic Testing Final 110315\\_0.pdf](#)

419.92

KB

[Print](#)