

## What happens after the assessment?



Out of **10** babies tested

About **5** are found to have normal hearing

About **4** are found to have a temporary hearing loss

About **1** is found to have a permanent hearing loss in one or both ears

If a hearing loss is found, the Audiologist will talk to you about how to find out the cause of the hearing loss and how to work with your child to help their hearing.

If no hearing loss is found, the Audiologist will tell you if any more hearing tests are needed. Some babies have risk factors for hearing loss that starts later in childhood. Your Audiologist will tell you if your baby has any of these risk factors.


If you become worried about hearing or speech and language development, please call NT Hearing Services for your child's hearing to be tested again.



### Top End NT Hearing Services

Darwin and Palmerston

Visiting service to Katherine and Nhulunbuy

 (08) 8922 7110

 [nthearing.darwin@nt.gov.au](mailto:nthearing.darwin@nt.gov.au)

### Central Australia NT Hearing Services

Alice Springs

Visiting service to Tennant Creek

 (08) 8951 6776

 [nthearingalicesprings.DOH@nt.gov.au](mailto:nthearingalicesprings.DOH@nt.gov.au)



If you need an interpreter when reading this, please ask a staff member.

NT HEALTH

# Your baby's diagnostic hearing test

## NT Newborn Hearing Screening Program

NT Health  
Consumer  
Approved



EDOC2024/0183186

For further information visit  
[health.nt.gov.au](http://health.nt.gov.au)



## Why does my baby need a diagnostic assessment?

A diagnostic hearing assessment is a way of finding out what your baby can hear in both ears. It gives more information than the Newborn Hearing Screening.

There are two reasons your baby might need this test:

- a medical condition that comes with hearing loss, or
- baby has had a “refer” result at two hearing screens.

Reasons your baby has shown a refer result on the hearing screen may be:

- Your baby was unsettled during the screen,
- There was lots of noise close by when the screen was being done,
- There was fluid or a temporary blockage in your baby’s ear after birth,
- Your baby may have a temporary or permanent hearing loss.

**Identifying a hearing loss at an early age gives your baby the best chance to develop good speech, language and learning skills.**



## What will the assessment tell me?

A test is done to find out if your baby has a hearing loss or not. The Audiologist who does the test will find out:

- if the hearing loss is temporary (will not last forever) or permanent (will last forever),
- what the level of hearing loss is (anywhere from mild to a total hearing loss), and
- if the hearing loss is in one or both ears.

It may take more than one appointment to get all the information needed so it is best to have the first assessment booked as soon as possible.

## How is the assessment performed?

During the assessment, the Audiologist will do a number of tests, checking different parts of your baby’s hearing system. Each test will be explained to you. None of the tests will hurt your baby.

The main test is called the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test. Sensors will be placed on your baby’s head, with sounds played through earphones. The sensors pick up your baby’s hearing response and the audiologist will work to find the softest sounds your baby can hear in each ear.

## How long will the assessment take?

The assessment can take up to three hours, depending on how well your baby settles and the assessment findings. At the end of the appointment, the Audiologist will be able to tell you what information was found.

## How much will the assessment cost?

NT Hearing Services is funded by the NT Government so there will be no cost to you.

## Preparing for the assessment.

Your baby needs to be asleep during the assessment to get the best results as crying or moving stops information from being picked up.

There will be time in the assessment to feed and settle your baby. You may like to bring a swaddle or anything else that helps your baby to sleep. Bring what you need to be comfortable including a water bottle and snacks for yourself.

If you have other children, please have someone look after them so you are able to stay with your baby.

You are welcome to bring another adult family member.

