

How to find us

Paediatric Audiology Department, Oak Lane Children's Health Centre, Summerlee Hearing & Balance Suite, Oak Lane, East Finchley N2 8LT

Public transport links

Underground: East Finchley (then bus 263 towards High Barnet or 20 minute walk from East Finchley underground Station).

By Car: Free parking both on site and off street parking.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

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What to expect when you attend your child's audiology appointment

Information for Parents (Oak Lane Children's Health Centre)



Your child has been referred to the paediatric audiology and audiovestibular medicine department under Whittington Health. This leaflet will explain to you what to expect at your child's appointment and the tests that may need to be carried out.

At your child's appointment we will ask some questions regarding your child's health, development, family history and any current concerns you have with their hearing and/or speech and language development. The appointment usually lasts 45 or 60 minutes depending on the type of clinic your child has been booked in.

During the appointment, a range of tests will be carried out. These may include:

- Otoscopy – this is a visual inspection of the outer ear using a handheld otoscope (magnifying torch) to check the health of the ear canal and ear drum.
- Tympanometry – this test will enable us to see how well the eardrum and bones in the middle ear move. We will place a small earpiece into your child's ear canal which will measure the eardrum movement in response to a light pressure.
- Visual reinforcement audiometry – used for children from around nine months of age. Sounds of different frequencies and loudness are played through a speaker and/or earphones. We will teach your child to respond to sounds with a head turn. Then we will reinforce the behaviour with a lighted/animated toy.
- Performance/play audiometry – these tests can be used from around two and a half years of age and above. The child will be taught how to play a simple task in response to hearing a sound played through a speaker and/or earphones.

- Pure tone audiometry – performed from around five years of age or when your child is able to respond to hearing a sound by pressing a button.

- Bone conduction – a small vibrating headband is placed behind the child's ear. It will pass sound directly to the inner ear through the bone. This technique can be used with any of the audiometry methods described and is useful for identifying the nature of any hearing loss.

- Oto-acoustic emission (OAE) test – this test assesses the function of the cochlear outer hair cells in the inner ear. A small earpiece is gently placed into your child's ear canal and a clicking sound is played. The inner ears response to the sound is then measured.

- Speech discrimination tests – these tests assess a child's ability to discriminate the different sounds in speech or between similar sounding words at different listening levels. Your child may be asked to identify toys or pictures, or to repeat back words they have heard.

We will adapt your child's hearing assessment to his or her individual needs and none of the above tests should be uncomfortable. We will spend time explaining the results and management to you. This may include referrals to other specialist services.

Further information

If you would like any additional information before or after your child's audiology appointment, please contact the department:
0203 316 8080