



Hearing screening for newborns

General information for parents



This brochure is distributed when you report the birth of your child at the council office. This brochure is a publication of the RIVM, and was created in cooperation with parents and experts from the involved occupational groups and organisations.

Municipalities (Population Affairs Department) can order this brochure via the website: www.rivm.nl/pns/folders-bestellen.

The screening programmes can be identified by means of this logo:

bevolkingsonderzoek

This is a publication of:
**National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment**
P.O. Box 1 | 3720 BA Bilthoven
The Netherlands
www.rivm.nl

The content of this brochure was prepared meticulously. No rights can be derived from it.

December 2010

Privacy

Your child's hearing test results are retained by your youth health care organisation in an administrative system which was specially created to make sure that the neonatal hearing test was carried out for all children at the right time and in the right way.

The test data may also be used for national statistics and scientific research, but for these purposes the data is anonymised: everything possible is done to prevent the identity of your child from being revealed.

Your child's hearing test results are stored in their own 'digital dossier'. You have rights with regard to your child's digital dossier; details can be found in the youth health care organisation's privacy policy document.

Other Languages

English Good hearing ability is essential in order to learn how to talk. This is why it is important to have your baby's hearing tested within the first few weeks after birth. This brochure provides more information about the hearing test. The brochure is also available in English, which you can find on www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening.

Deutsch Für die Sprachentwicklung ist ein gutes Gehör unentbehrlich. Darum wird das Hörvermögen Ihres Babys getestet. Dieser Test erfolgt bereits in den ersten Wochen nach der Geburt. In dieser Broschüre finden Sie weitere Informationen über den Hörtest. Die Broschüre ist auch in deutscher Sprache verfügbar. Sie finden die deutsche Übersetzung auf der Internetseite www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening.

Français Une bonne ouïe est nécessaire pour pouvoir bien apprendre à parler. C'est pour cette raison que l'ouïe de votre enfant est testée. Ce test auditif est déjà effectué au cours des premières semaines après la naissance de votre enfant. Cette brochure vous donne plus d'informations sur le test auditif. Cette brochure est également traduite en français. Vous pouvez trouver cette traduction sur www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening.

Español Para poder hablar bien, es importante tener un buen oído. Por eso se hace una prueba de capacidad del oído de su bebé. Esto se suele hacer ya en las primeras semanas tras el nacimiento. En este folleto encontrará más información sobre la prueba de capacidad del oído. Este folleto también ha sido traducido al español. El folleto traducido lo encontrará en www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening.

Português Para aprender a falar bem é necessário uma boa audição. Por isso a audição do seu bebé será submetida a testes. Isso ocorrerá nas primeiras semanas após o nascimento. Neste folheto encontra-se mais informação sobre o teste de audição. Este folheto está também traduzido para o Português. O folheto traduzido encontra-se em www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening.

Türkçe İşitme yetisi sağlıklı olmayan bir bebek konuşmayı da öğrenemez. Bu nedenle, bebeğinizin doğumunu izleyen ilk haftalarda işitme testi yaptırmanız çok önemlidir. Elinizdeki broşürde işitme testiyle ilgili ayrıntılı bilgi yer almaktadır. Broşürü Türkçe olarak da okuyabilirsiniz; bunun için lütfen şu adrese gidin: www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening.

Papiamentu Pa siña papia bon, un bon oïdo ta esensial. Ta p'esei lo tèt e oïdo di bo beibi. Lo hasi esaki den e promé simannan despues di nasementu. Den e foyeto aki bo ta haña mas informashon tokante e tèt di oïdo. A tradusí e foyeto aki na Papiamentu tambe. E tradukshon bo por haña na www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening.

العربية
إن القدرة الجيدة على السمع أمر شديد الأهمية لتعلم الكلام. لهذا من المهم أن يقوم الوالدان بفحص سمع طفليهما خلال الأسابيع القليلة الأولى بعد ولادته. يوفر هذا الكتيب المزيد من المعلومات عن فحص السمع. يتوفر الكتيب باللغة العربية أيضاً، ويمكنكم العثور عليه بتلك اللغة على الموقع www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening.

中文
良好的聽力是學習說話所不可或缺的要素。因此在您的寶寶出生後的幾週內為寶寶作聽力檢查極為重要。本小手冊提供許多聽力檢查的資料。您也可以從中文網站取得本小手冊。網址：www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening。



Hearing screening for newborns

Why does your child need a hearing test?

Your baby's hearing will be tested in the first month after birth. This test will measure whether your baby's hearing is good enough in order to learn how to talk. The test is also known as 'neonatal hearing screening', or hearing screening for newborn children.

Who will carry out the test?

The hearing test is provided by the youth health care service, (JGZ) an organisation that also includes your own maternity care centre. The screening will be conducted by a youth health care or maternity care professional (screener).

Where and when will the hearing test take place?

The hearing test will be carried out either in your own home in the first week after birth or at the maternity care centre. If the hearing test is carried out at the maternity care centre, this will take place in the second or third week after birth. You will then receive an invitation in advance. If the hearing test is carried out in your own home, your child will generally receive a heel prick during the same visit. In some cases, the screener will simply drop by without making an appointment in advance.

What if your baby is in the hospital?

If your baby is in the hospital, the hearing test will be carried out after it has returned home. This is why it is important that you let the maternity care centre know when your baby will be discharged from hospital. If your baby needs to stay at the hospital for a longer period of time, the test can also be carried out at the hospital. The youth health care service will then contact you in advance. If you do not hear from the youth health care service, please contact them yourself.

Preparation

You do not have to make any special preparations. However, it is important that the room in which the test is carried out is quiet. The hearing test is most effective when your baby is calm and asleep. You can leave your baby in its crib or hold it in your arms while the test is carried out.

What happens during the hearing test?

The screener will place a soft earplug in your baby's ear. This earplug is connected to a measuring device which will test your baby's hearing. The test lasts a few minutes and will not hurt. In most cases, your baby will hardly notice and continue to sleep peacefully.

The results

The results of the hearing test will be available immediately, and will be discussed with you by the screener. About 95 in 100 children receive a 'good' or 'satisfactory' result. If the results of the hearing test are 'unsatisfactory', the test will be repeated after about one week. If necessary, a third test will be carried out approximately one week later, using different measuring equipment. An unsatisfactory result does not necessarily mean that your child cannot hear properly. If the results of the third test are unsatisfactory for one or both ears, your baby's hearing will be tested in greater detail at an Audiology Centre. You will then receive further information in advance. Audiology Centres specialise in the study of hearing, speech and language. Some Centres are affiliated with a hospital.

Participation is not compulsory

If you do not want your child to be tested, please notify the screener or make this clear when you are contacted for an appointment.

Costs

You will not be required to pay for the hearing tests.



Other important information

Why are the tests carried out at such a young age?

A good sense of hearing is important for the development of your baby. Hearing tests can help detect any problems at an early stage. The sooner the diagnosis is made, the quicker treatment can begin. It is important to start treatment before your baby is six months old. Studies have shown that this has a positive effect on the development of speech and language skills.

Stay watchful

If the result of the hearing test is 'satisfactory', your child's hearing is almost certainly good at the time of testing. Nevertheless, it is important that you stay watchful of your child's hearing. In some cases, hearing impairments can arise at a later stage. Thankfully, this is extremely rare. If you have any doubts about your child's hearing, contact your family doctor or maternity care centre.

Further information

For further information on the hearing test for newborn children, please visit the RIVM (Dutch National Institute of Public Health and the Environment) website: www.rivm.nl/gehoorscreening. The website also provides answers to frequently asked questions. You can also contact your maternity care centre if you have any questions. The address details and phone number of the youth health care division to which your maternity care centre belongs are listed on the RIVM website. If you would like more information on hearing screening, you can also contact the NSDSK (Dutch Foundation for Hearing Impaired Children): 020 574 5945.