



HEARING SCREENING: YOUR CHILD FAILED THE HEARING TEST... WHAT NOW?

A hearing test was given to your baby. This hearing screening detected that one or both ears have a hearing impairment. This is frightening: obviously, you were not expecting your baby to fail the screening test. So we would like to give you some more info about what you can expect to happen.

HOW THE HEARING TEST IS CARRIED OUT

A failed screening test is an indication of potential hearing loss.

In order to be certain, a second control test is carried out if the first hearing test was negative. The control test is a repeat of the first hearing screening test. One in two babies will give a normal hearing result during the control test. This is not so surprising because a temporary decrease in hearing can explain a negative result for the first test (a cold, etc.).

If there is a second negative result, your baby will be referred on for further testing.

REFERRAL AFTER THE CONTROL TEST

After consulting with you, the regional nurse will make an appointment for you at a reference centre for the diagnosis of hearing problems for young children. The further testing will take place there as quickly as possible, in principle within a 2-week period. They will test if your baby has a hearing problem, and if so, the severity of it.

As a parent, you will have many questions in this tense and anxious period. Ask the questions that you feel are important and arm yourself with information. The nurse at Kind and Gezin (Child and Family) will inform you of the provisions and help you find the solutions that work best for you.

My baby responds to sound; is it still necessary to carry out further testing?

Yes, it is necessary to carry out further testing. Babies with hearing loss can react to sounds or vibrations at various pitches or loudness; a reaction to sound does not mean there isn't any hearing loss.

If your baby does have hearing loss, it is important to discover this as quickly as possible.

REFERRAL:

Reference centre:

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Address:

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Appointment:

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You can find additional info and the "The hearing test is done... what's best to do now?" brochure on the www.kindengezin.be website under gezondheid en vaccineren/health and vaccinations - opvolging/follow-up - medisch preventief consult/preventative medical consultation - gehooronderzoek/hearing test.