

Engelse vertaling uit het Nederlands van: Kernboodschappen gehoor

An early hearing test

Kind en Gezin provides a hearing test in the first weeks after the birth.

- The hearing test can already detect congenital hearing defects shortly after the birth.
- The early detection and further treatment of hearing loss is necessary for the proper development of speech and language skills and to offer your baby the very best development chances.
- The hearing test is a safe, painless and extremely reliable test that will be carried out by the district nurse, preferably during the first weeks after the birth (between 2 and 4 weeks).

How is the hearing test carried out?

Small speakers will transmit soft noises to both of your baby's ears. The device uses electrodes taped to the baby's head to register changes in brain activity and to assess how much your baby is hearing. Results will appear after just a few minutes. If the hearing test doesn't provide full certainty regarding normal hearing, the district nurse will schedule a new appointment a few days later to carry out a control hearing test. If the results are negative a second time, your baby will be referred to a centre that is specialised in treating hearing problems in very young children. This way, you will quickly find out what is wrong with your baby and can start any treatment in time.

Tips for a problem-free hearing test

- The test goes without problems if your baby is calm. So it's best to opt for a time at which your baby is usually sleeping.
- Don't give the baby any oil baths, and don't apply any lotions or creams on the day before or the day of the test, otherwise the tape on the electrodes will not stick as well.
- Dressing your baby in loose-fitting clothes makes putting the electrodes on easier.
- Make sure your baby has eaten a little prior to the test and that you will be able to feed him or her at the time of the test as well, if necessary.