



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

Neonatal hearing screening

Discussion guide for informing parents about OAE hearing test (1st and 2nd round)



The first round of screening

The pre-test discussion

- Check if the parents have received and read the leaflet about the hearing screening and the heel prick test. You can also show them online at: www.pns.nl/en/multiple-languages/english. The information is available in multiple languages.
- Explain the purpose of hearing screening (even if it has been explained before):
 - All babies are offered a hearing test soon after they are born.
 - The hearing test checks if your baby can hear well enough to learn to talk clearly.
 - During the test, we can check three times per ear. If it is not possible to confirm a clear result, the test will be repeated one week later.
- Parents are free to decide if their child will take part in screening. Ask for their consent to do the test:
 - May I give your child a hearing test?
- If the answer is 'No', ask the parents why they do not want to test their child's hearing:
 - May I ask why you do not want to do a hearing test?
 - *Note: parents are not required to give a reason.*
 - Do you want more information about the hearing test?
 - *Contact the regional co-ordinator for more information, if necessary.*
 - If you have concerns about your baby's hearing later on, please contact the well-baby clinic.

If parents do not want you to give their child a hearing test, enter this response in the screening device (preferably accompanied by the reason) and conclude the visit.

- Ask if the child was admitted to hospital:
 - How is your child doing?
 - Was your child admitted to hospital because of their own health issues?
- If the answer is 'Yes', ask the questions listed in the hospital protocol from the programme guidelines. If the parents answer 'Yes' to one or more of those questions, do not proceed with the test. Instead, contact the regional co-ordinator and conclude the visit.
- Explain how the hearing test works:
 - A soft plug is placed in your child's ear.
 - This plug emits a soft sound into the ear.
 - A healthy ear will make a sound in response.
 - The microphone in the earplug picks up that response.

- The device assesses the sound and gives a result. Then the device shuts down automatically.
- The device can be affected by ambient noise. That is why it is important for the room to be as quiet as possible during the test.
- The result of the hearing test will be shown on the screen of the device.
- Is everything clear to you? Then I will test your child's hearing now.

The post-test discussion

A. Is the test result satisfactory for both ears?

Tell the parents:

- The test results for both ears are satisfactory.
- At this time, your child can hear well enough with both ears to learn to talk clearly.
- It is important to keep monitoring your child's hearing, since it could change over time. The next few years are very important for your child's language development.
- If you are concerned about your child's hearing, or if there are delays in language development, contact the well-baby clinic or the GP.

B. Is the test result satisfactory in one ear, but not in the other? Tell the parents:

- The test result is satisfactory for one ear.
- At this time, your child can hear well enough with one ear to learn to talk clearly.
- I do not have a conclusive result for the other ear.
- There could be various reasons why, including ambient noise, earwax or a common cold. But your child could have temporary or permanent hearing loss in that ear.
- It is not yet clear if your child hears well enough with that ear. To check, your child will have a second hearing test.
- You will be contacted to make a new appointment.

C. Are the test results for both ears unsatisfactory?

Tell the parents:

- The test results for both ears are unsatisfactory.
- At this time, I cannot confirm that your child can hear well enough to learn to talk clearly.
- There could be various reasons why, including ambient noise, earwax or a common cold. But your child could have temporary or permanent hearing loss.
- It is not yet clear if your child hears well enough. To check, your child will have a second hearing test.
- We will make a new appointment with you for that test.

The second round of screening

The pre-test discussion

- How is your child doing? Ask if the child was admitted to hospital after the first screening.
- If the answer is 'Yes', ask the questions listed in the hospital protocol from the programme guidelines. If the parents answer 'Yes' to one or more of those questions, do not proceed with the test. Instead, contact the regional co-ordinator and conclude the visit.
- Ask if the parents have any questions. If necessary, explain the process again (see 'The first round of screening').
- Then repeat the hearing test for each ear that had an unsatisfactory result in the previous test.

The post-test discussion

A. Is the test result satisfactory for both ears?

Tell the parents:

- The test results for both ears are satisfactory.
- At this time, your child can hear well enough with both ears to learn to talk clearly.
- It is important to keep monitoring your child's hearing, since it could change over time. The next few years are very important for your child's language development.
- If you are concerned about your child's hearing, or if there are delays in language development, contact the GP or the well-baby clinic.

B. Are the test results unsatisfactory for one ear or for both ears? Tell the parents:

- At this time, I cannot confirm that your child can hear well enough with both ears to learn to talk clearly.
 - There could be various reasons why, including ambient noise, earwax or a common cold. But your child could have temporary or permanent hearing loss.
 - It is not yet clear if your child hears well enough. To check, your child will have another hearing test using a different device.
 - This test could take more time.
 - You will receive a phone call to make an appointment.
- Notify the regional co-ordinator that the child qualifies for an AABR screening. Provide the child's name and address and any other relevant details.

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