

Early detection of hearing loss in Castilla y León



Congratulations on the birth of your baby!

The Junta de Castilla y León offers all babies born in our autonomous community the possibility of checking whether or not they can hear properly.

All it takes is a simple test.

This test is part of Castilla y León's Early Detection Programme and Integral Service for Hearing Loss in Children.

Early detection

Discovering a disease before the symptoms appear.

Hearing loss

Partial loss of the ability to hear. It may affect one or both ears.

Integral

Full, complete

Why is it important to do this test?

It is important to do this test because:

- It detects any problems of deafness in your baby.

Babies sometimes appear to respond to sounds even though they have hearing problems.

- Deafness in newborns is rare,
but the consequences are very serious.
A child that is unable to hear finds it very difficult
to learn to speak
and communicate with others,
and this will affect the rest of their lives.
- The sooner you know that your child is unable to hear properly,
the sooner he/she can be treated and this will improve his/her
development.

The test is carried out on all newborns
in the hospital.

You must tell the doctor
if you do not wish the test to be carried out on your child.

In addition, it is important to tell the paediatrician
if any members of your family are deaf.



What does the test consist of?

The test consists of placing an earphone in the child's ear when he/she is asleep or calm. When the child hears properly, the sound reaching his/her ears is automatically registered.



Where and when is the test carried out?

- The test is done while your child is in hospital.
- If the test cannot be done while your child is in hospital, you must contact the hospital's Otorhinolaryngology department, which is the service responsible for carrying out the test, and they will inform you.

Otorhinolaryngology

this is the area of medicine relating to diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

What are the possible results?

- If the results of the test are positive, this means that your child can hear properly and the Children's Health Document provided by the hospital will be stamped. That way, the paediatrician will know that the test has been carried out.
- If the results of the test are not successful: This doesn't necessarily mean that your child cannot hear properly, but rather that further investigation is necessary and the test must be repeated before the baby is one month old.

How can you continue monitoring your child's hearing?

Even though the results of the test are good, problems may still appear later on. That's why it is very important to observe your child when he/she is calm and in an environment without too much noise.

You should ask yourself the following questions, depending on the child's age.

If the answer to these questions is NO, this means your child cannot hear properly and you should talk to your paediatrician.

0 to 3 months:

Does your baby get startled, blink, stop or wake up when there is a loud and unexpected noise?

3 to 6 months:

Do your baby's eyes turn towards an interesting sound such as his/her mother's voice or a rattle?

6 to 12 months:

When you are behind your baby and say his/her name softly, does he/she turn towards you?

12 to 15 months:

Does your baby point to or look at objects or family members when you say their name?

15 to 24 months:

Does your baby understand simple instructions?

For example, if you say, “Give me the ball”,
does he/she give it to you?

2 to 3 years:

When your child speaks,

are the words he/she uses understandable?

Does your child answer simple questions?

**Contact your paediatrician if you think your child
may not be able to hear properly**

This text follows IFLA international guidelines for Easy-to-Read materials
designed for people with reading comprehension difficulties.

It has been validated by persons with intellectual disabilities.

It has been approved by the Castilla y León Easy-to-Read Association.