

## Signs of a hearing loss

Due to the demand on this service it is important to identify the signs of a hearing loss.

Family member, health professional or teacher concern regarding:

- > Hearing ability
- > Delays or differences in speech and language development
- > Lack of attention or behavioural difficulties
- > Poorer than expected academic performance
- > Not responding to someone talking out-of-view or across the room, particularly with minimal distractions
- > Displaying a surprised look when the child's name has been called at a normal or even fairly loud level
- > Using "what?" or "huh?" frequently
- > Intently watching the faces of speakers
- > Difficulty understanding speech in background noise
- > Sitting close to the TV set when the volume is adequate for others
- > Increasing the TV or stereo/tape/CD player volume to unreasonably loud levels
- > Not responding to voices over the telephone or switching ears continually when the phone is utilised
- > Not being startled by intense sounds
- > Not being able to locate the direction of a sound accurately.

Your child's hearing is the means through which communication will develop and flourish.

**Monitor your child's hearing carefully and seek professional help if you are concerned at any time.**

**Note: we do not test for Auditory Processing Disorder (APD).**

You can read more about APD at the Auditory Processing Disorder website: [www.auditoryprocessing.com.au](http://www.auditoryprocessing.com.au)

## For more information

**Hearing Assessment Service  
Children's Audiology Service  
Women's and Children's Health Network  
Monday – Friday  
8:00am – 4:30pm  
Telephone: 8303 1530  
Fax: 8303 1640  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au)**



If you do not speak English, request an interpreter from SA Health and the department will make every effort to provide you with an interpreter in your language.



[www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons](http://www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons)

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## What do we do?

Hearing Assessment Service provides FREE hearing tests statewide for children aged 6 months to 18 years of age.

## Who can refer?

Clients need to be referred to this program via their local General Practitioner, other medical officer (Paediatrician, Ear Nose and Throat Specialist etc.), external audiology services or by a hearing screening program such as the Pre-School Hearing Check (Child and Family Health Service) or Aboriginal Hearing Screening Programs.

Our referral form is available at: [www.cyh.com](http://www.cyh.com)

For kindergarten aged children, please call the Child and Family Health Service on 1300 733 606, for a pre-school hearing check to have your child's hearing assessed.

## What happens next?

Once a referral has been received, you will be sent a letter of confirmation and the referral will be prioritised by an Audiologist. For children aged 3.5 years and younger a 15 minute appointment is scheduled, and for children 3.5 years and older a half hour appointment will be allocated. More than one appointment may be needed to define your child's hearing abilities.



## Where do we go?

We provide hearing assessments in the following locations.

### Metropolitan

- > Adelaide – 295 South Terrace, Adelaide
- > Noarlunga Hospital – Alexander Kelly Drive, Noarlunga
- > GP Plus Health Care Centre – 16 Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth
- > Murray Bridge – 11a West Terrace, Murray Bridge

### Country – at least twice a year at each site

- > Port Augusta
- > Whyalla
- > Port Lincoln
- > Port Pirie
- > Wallaroo / Yorke Peninsula
- > Riverland
- > Mt Gambier
- > Kangaroo Island

## What do you need to bring?

- > Personal Health Record (Blue Book)
- > Other important information e.g. previous hearing test results
- > Carer for any extra children

## Why is it important to have a hearing test?

It is important to have your child's hearing tested if you have concerns about your child's hearing even if they have passed their newborn hearing screening. Hearing can change and a hearing impairment can impact speech, language and learning.

Statistics show that 1–2 in every thousand babies is born with a permanent hearing impairment. This increases to 6 in every 1000 children at school. This can include children that have passed their newborn hearing screen.

Before 6 years of age, almost all children will have had at least one middle ear infection (otitis media). Half of the children who have had 1 ear infection before 1 year of age will have 6+ episodes in the following 2 years. This can impact their hearing and speech and language development.

## Types of hearing loss

Hearing loss comes in various types (conductive, sensorineural and mixed); and varying degrees mild, moderate, severe to profound. The Audiologists will discuss your child's hearing ability and make the necessary referrals to ensure your child is not impacted if a hearing loss is detected.