

A new diagnosis of hearing loss

Your baby has been diagnosed with hearing loss and this will bring a range of emotional responses. These responses are all very normal.

Unexpected news can make us feel uncomfortable and coming to a point of understanding takes patience and many conversations.

You may have questions around what could have caused the hearing loss, how the hearing loss will affect your baby's life and where to go from here.

Please be assured that you are not alone and there are services and support people who are able to come alongside you to determine the next steps for you and your baby.

Next steps

1. You will meet with the Family Support Facilitator at PCH who will support you to talk about any thoughts and feelings associated with your baby's hearing loss. You will also find out about the range of services available to support you and your baby during this initial period.
2. PCH Audiology will arrange an appointment for you with an Ear, Nose and Throat Doctor (ENT) who will discuss your baby's hearing loss, possible causes and answer any questions. The ENT will also organise for your baby to have scans of the ears, blood tests and other tests to try to determine a possible cause for the hearing loss.
3. Your baby is likely to benefit from wearing hearing aid(s), so we will refer you to Hearing Australia www.hearing.com.au, a Federal Government funded agency that provides hearing aids to children with hearing loss.
4. Your baby may be eligible for support through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) www.ndis.gov.au. The NDIS will be available to discuss the various services open to your baby and how to access funding for these services. Hearing Australia can assist you with the initial application for this support. It is important that you meet with NDIS and learn about how you can obtain the right services for your baby.
5. Finding out about your babies hearing loss early in life provides the opportunity for "early intervention" which means supporting your baby to grow into the best version of him/herself with specialised support from a very young age. It is important that your baby is enrolled with a service that has extensive knowledge about hearing loss and fits with you and your family.

What to do

- Attend the appointments that are set up for you over the coming weeks and months so that more information can be uncovered about your baby's hearing loss.
- Contact the early intervention services listed below and find out what they offer and how they can support you and your baby.

Auditory Verbal Western Australia Home

<https://www.auditory-verbalwa.com.au/>

ph: 0400 383 202

Email: avwa_bbirch@gmail.com

School for Special Needs Sensory (SSENS)

www.ssens.wa.edu.au

ph: 08 9402 6409

Email: sensory@education.wa.edu.au

Telethon Speech & Hearing (TSH)

www.tsh.org.au

ph: 08 9387 9888

Email: speech@tsh.org.au

Other websites you may find helpful

WA Foundation for Deaf Children - www.wafdc.org.au

Raising Children Network - www.raisingchildren.net.au



Government of **Western Australia**
Child and Adolescent Health Service

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.



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