



# Audiology



Many people with a learning disability have a hearing problem.

This factsheet will tell you about the help you can get if you have a hearing problem.



# Other people may notice you have a hearing problem before you do.



People who support you may notice things like these below.



They may notice that you have the TV or radio on very loud.



They may notice you get scared, confused or dizzy a lot.



They may notice that you ignore people or ask them to repeat what they said.

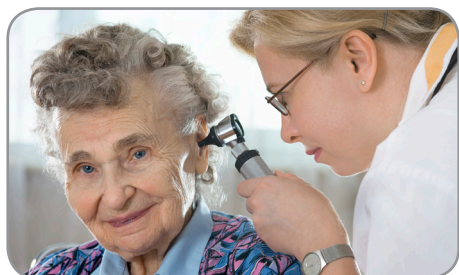


They may notice that you don't want to go out or do your activities.

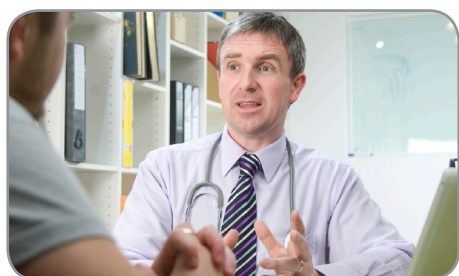
You may have had your hearing problem for a long time.



You may have got used to having a hearing problem.



You should have your ears checked regularly at your GP surgery.



Talk to your doctor about any hearing problems you have.



The best way to check for hearing problems is by having a hearing test.



Your doctor can organise a hearing test for you at Sunderland Royal Hospital.

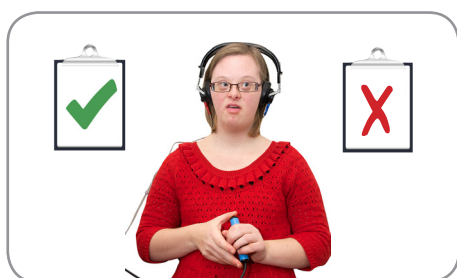
Everybody who has a learning disability can have a hearing test.



There are lots of ways to check your hearing.



At the hearing test you may need to wear headphones. You press a button when you hear a sound.



The test will check what sounds you can hear. You may be able to hear some sounds but not others.

The person who does hearing tests is called an **Audiologist**.

An audiologist is trained to help people with their hearing.



The audiologist will also look in your ears to check they are healthy.

If you have a hearing problem we will help to make your hearing better.



Some hearing problems are **temporary** and some are **permanent**.



A lot of wax in your ears can cause a **temporary** hearing problem. Taking the wax out helps you hear better.



Your GP surgery may be able to remove your earwax. Sometimes a doctor at the hospital may do it.



Hearing aids are a great way to help people with **permanent** hearing problems hear better. They are free.



Your audiologist will find the right hearing aid for you. They will fit it properly and help you look after it.

# Hearing well makes communication easier and can make activities more enjoyable.



I love my hearing aids because they help me hear my music better



I'm glad I had my hearing tested. It was fun to do and it's good to know there are no problems.



I see a nurse every 6 months to have my ears cleaned.

## Credits

This factsheet was developed by the Learning Disability Liaison Service at South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, and funded by the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group.

Designed by The Clear Communication People Ltd. using Photosymbols and other stock photography.

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## About Easy Read information

Easy Read information using larger print, easy words and pictures to make information easier to understand. Easy read is a summary of the key points. Whilst it is useful to help people understand complex subjects it should not be relied upon solely in the process of supporting people to make decisions about their health care and treatment.

This factsheet can be downloaded free of charge from: [www.sunderlandactionforhealth.co.uk](http://www.sunderlandactionforhealth.co.uk)