



## **Guidelines for Parents and Guardians**

### **How to Monitor your Child's Hearing**

Following a review of the evidence for universal school entry age hearing screening, a decision has been made to discontinue hearing screening for children in reception in North Tyneside.

The NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP) which has been in existence since 2006 effectively identifies moderate, severe and profound deafness and hearing impairment in newborn babies. As a result of the success of this programme and the lack of evidence to support universal screening at school entry many local authorities are choosing to discontinue the school entry screening programme.

**If you or your child's class teacher is concerned about your child's hearing it is extremely important that you go to your GP, health visitor or school nurse and discuss if a referral to the audiology department is required.**

Please use these guidelines to help determine if there is a problem with your child's hearing:-

- 1) Is your child able to follow age appropriate instructions when spoken to, in a normal voice, from behind or out of sight?
- 2) Is your child's speech and language age appropriate? Do they have a large vocabulary intelligible to everyone?

### **General Information**

- Children are routinely offered a newborn hearing screen at birth. Results can be found in your parent held child health record (red book).
- As school hearing screening is no longer being offered in North Tyneside, do not delay going to your GP if there is genuine concern about the hearing.
- If you notice a fluctuating hearing loss, in association with colds, consider actively monitoring the hearing for  $\leq 3$  months prior to referral. If you feel strong concern go to your GP immediately.
- If your child has repeated ear infections ask your GP to refer you to an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist, not audiology.