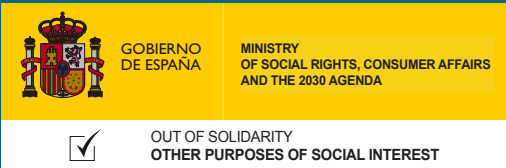




PROMOTING INCLUSION, SUPPORTING PEOPLE, ADVANCING IN SOLIDARITY



With representatives from:
The Spanish Association of Paediatrics,
the Spanish Society of Otorhinolaryngology
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Family Care and Support Network



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ASOCIACIÓN "SAN FRANCISCO
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ASPANSOR-ZARAGOZA
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ASTURIAS (PRINCIPALITY OF)

APADA-ASTURIAS
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BALEARIC ISLANDS (AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OF)

FUNDACIÓN ASPAS-MALLORCA
Tel.: 871 57 00 73

CANARY ISLANDS (AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OF)

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928 23 32 89 (Gran Canaria)
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ASPAS-CIUDAD REAL
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ASPAS-CUENCA
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APANDAPT-TOLEDO
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MURCIA (REGION OF)

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NAVARRRE (CHARTERED COMMUNITY OF)

EUNATE-NAVARRA
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EARLY DETECTION OF POSTNATAL HEARING LOSS in paediatric age groups



POSTNATAL HEARING LOSS

Early detection programmes for neonatal hearing loss are not enough to detect all hearing loss throughout childhood. It is therefore necessary to develop further initiatives aimed at the early detection of postnatal hearing loss, which should be considered as an important health problem that needs assessment and treatment.

- ✓ Hearing screening **is highly recommended** during paediatric health check-ups and at the following ages: 2-3 years, 5-6 years, 7-8 years, 11-12 years, and 15-16 years, and in the event of any red flags and/or suspicions observed by the family or caregivers.
- ✓ **Tele-audiology** is a new tool for effective and efficient postnatal hearing screening. It involves internet-connected portable audiological devices, video conferencing, platforms, applications and online surveys.
- ✓ **Artificial intelligence** will enable and optimise screening processes, data analysis and processing to improve prevention and early diagnosis of postnatal hearing loss.
- ✓ As with other population-based screening programmes for children, postnatal hearing screening should be included in the **public health** service portfolio.
- ✓ It is essential that **diagnostic and (re)habilitation** services are available and accessible for the referral of children who fail hearing screening. An effective **monitoring system** is also needed to avoid losing cases within the process and to ensure that cases detected are dealt with appropriately.

RED FLAGS

Between the ages of 6 months and 15 years, you must observe whether...

BEFORE TWO YEARS OF AGE

- ✓ They are not scared or upset by sudden loud noises
- ✓ They do not respond with vowel sounds when spoken to
- ✓ They do not localise or turn their head to familiar voices or sounds
 - ✓ They neither do vocal play nor imitate sounds
 - ✓ They do not rattle toys or objects within reach
 - ✓ They do not react to their name
 - ✓ They do not pay attention to stories
- ✓ They do not listen to nursery rhymes, or imitate the gestures that go with them
 - ✓ They do not say daddy/mummy
- ✓ They do not point to familiar objects or people when they're named
- ✓ They do not understand simple instructions, such as "give me...", "take...", "come...", "say goodbye..."

BETWEEN TWO AND FOUR YEARS OF AGE

- ✓ They do not listen to what is being said if they aren't looking at the speaker
- ✓ They do not name familiar objects
- ✓ They do not make two-word sentences
- ✓ They do not progress in speech and communication skills
 - ✓ They do not identify where sounds come from
 - ✓ They are easily frustrated
 - ✓ They frequently say "What?", "Huh?"....

FROM FOUR YEARS OF AGE

- ✓ They are hypersensitive to certain sounds
- ✓ They have a preference for one of their ears when listening and/or approaching a source of sound
 - ✓ They do not chat with other children
- ✓ Only their family understands what they say
- ✓ They have behavioural problems or social difficulties
- ✓ They show a learning delay and changes in their school performance
- ✓ They show signs of spoken or written language disorders, which indicate poor speech discrimination
 - ✓ They say that voices and other sounds seem muffled
 - ✓ They have difficulty hearing high-pitched sounds
 - ✓ They misunderstand conversations in noisy places
- ✓ They have trouble understanding conversations on the phone
- ✓ They frequently ask for what is said to them to be repeated
- ✓ They ask others to speak more slowly, clearly and/or loudly
 - ✓ They turn up the volume of the TV and any other electronic devices
- ✓ They complain of ringing in their ears

EARLY DETECTION OF POSTNATAL HEARING LOSS IN PAEDIATRIC AGE GROUPS

Commission for the Early Detection of Hearing Loss - CODEPEH

