

Using noisemakers

Listen... You heard that!

For fun, you can try different noisemakers with your baby. Present them behind his back so he doesn't get visual cues – and watch out for reflections in glass or vibrations through your body or the floor.

What reactions to sounds should I look out for?

Your baby may:

- Become still if he has been moving,
- Move his eyes - either to the side or they may just get briefly wider,
- If he is feeding, he may stop sucking (or if he is using his dummy, he may stop sucking on it),
- He may turn his head towards the sound,
- If he is resting quietly, he may move more vigorously.

What should I do?

Make sure the environment is quiet. After a period of silence, make a noise with the noisemaker. Let the sound continue for up to 10 seconds (or more) to give him time to respond. If he does respond, say: "You heard that, it was the bells!" and let him see the bells. Make a note in your diary.

If he doesn't respond, gradually bring the noisemaker into his line of sight and then when he is looking at it, attach meaning to it, for example: "It's the bells, they're ringing!" Record the lack of response in your diary.

Do not try for more than two or three responses as babies become accustomed to particular sounds quickly and he will ignore them – change the noisemaker or do more a little later.

Remember, treat your baby as if he can hear perfectly.

