Scene 1: When you arrive at House 21, you will see several people who are there to assist with testing. Some will help with videoconferencing and some will help us test your baby. Remember that you will see us on a computer screen throughout the test session.

Scene 2: You will sit in a comfortable chair holding your baby. Testing very young babies’ hearing takes several steps. First, the audiometrist will look in your baby’s ear to see if the ear canal is clear.

Scene 3: If it is clear, he or she will place a small probe in your baby’s ear canal to see how well the ear drum is moving.

Scene 4: After this test, the audiometrist will clean your baby’s skin because the next text uses electrodes to measure your baby’s brain waves in response to sound. We clean your baby’s skin so the electrodes will make a good contact. Your baby may fuss or cry during this step, especially since we’ve asked you to bring him to the test hungry and sleepy. Although your baby may cry, the skin cleaning does not hurt him. During this step, you may feed your baby to help him fall asleep.

Scene 6: Once your baby is asleep, the audiometrist will place a small earphone in your baby’s ear. From this point forward, we want your baby to remain soundly asleep. Be sure you are comfortable, because you will be holding your baby for up to an hour or more while we collect the test results.

Scene 7: We will conduct other tests that involve placing different earphones in your baby’s ear or small boxes on your baby’s head. During these tests, just relax and try to keep your baby asleep.

Scene 8: When testing is finished, the audiometrist will remove the electrodes from your baby’s head. Once you are comfortable, we will discuss the test results and recommendations with you.