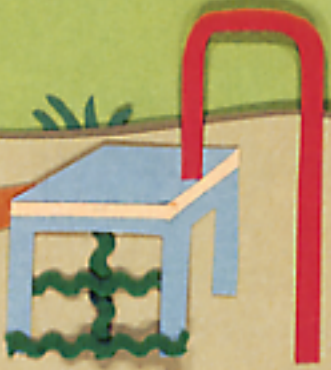


A colorful illustration of a landscape. In the background, there are brown mountains under a light blue sky with a white bird flying. Below the mountains is a row of green and brown evergreen trees. The foreground is a green field.

Newborn Hearing Screening

A stylized illustration of a blue chair with a red archway behind it, set on a brown oval base. The chair has green wavy lines on its seat.

**Alaska
Early Hearing
Detection and
Intervention
Program**



What is newborn hearing screening?

Newborn hearing screening is a test that will check if your baby's hearing is normal or whether more testing is needed.

The test does not hurt and is quick and easy. If your birthing facility does not offer newborn hearing screening, ask your healthcare provider to refer you to a place that does.



Why does my baby need a hearing screening?

As many as 30 babies are born in Alaska every year with hearing loss. That is why it is important to test all newborn babies before they leave the hospital. If your baby can't hear

well, he/she may have problems learning to talk. If you find a hearing loss early, your child will have the best chance to learn.



Who will perform the screening?

A trained person will test your baby's hearing.



What if my baby does not pass?

If your baby does not pass the screening test performed in the nursery, you should make sure he/she has another screening within one month. The facility who performs the screening will refer you to a pediatric audiologist for the second test. A pediatric audiologist is a professional who specializes in childhood hearing.



Here are some things a child with normal hearing should be able to do. Use the hearing milestone chart to check your child's hearing at home.



0-3 months

- Jumps at a sudden, loud noise
- Calms down when you speak

3-6 months

- Turns head or moves eyes to find your voice
- Plays at making noises and sounds



6-10 months

- Reacts to hearing his/her name
- Begins to understand easy words like "no" and "bye-bye"

10-15 months

- Repeats simple words and sounds you make
- Uses two to three words other than "ma-ma" and "da-da"

18 months

- Follows simple spoken directions
- Uses seven or more true words

24 months

- Understands when you call from another room
- Points to body parts when asked

