

Babies can't wait and neither can their hearing:

By 1 month of age: hearing screening

By 3 months of age: diagnosis of hearing loss

By 6 months of age: early intervention services

Next steps for my baby:

- Tell the hospital the name of your baby's doctor so they can send a copy of the results for your baby's record.
- Find out the plan for your baby's hearing follow-up, such as next appointment date or who to call for an appointment.

Follow-up plan:

Does your 3-month old baby blink or jump when there is a sudden, loud sound?

Does your 6-month old baby look for sounds with his eyes?

Does your 9-month old baby turn her head toward loud sounds?

Your Baby Needs Another Hearing Test

Why would my baby need another hearing test?



Newborn Screening Program, 866-289-2037
www.doh.state.fl.us/cms/nbscreen.html

DH 145-024, 8/13 5730-024-0145-1

Why would my baby need another hearing test?

- Fluid in the ear.
- Noise in the testing room.
- Baby was moving a lot.
- Baby has hearing loss.
- The only way to find children with hearing loss is to do a hearing test.

Why is it important to have another hearing test as soon as possible?

- Babies start hearing before they are born and begin to learn language at birth.
- The earlier a hearing loss is found, the easier it is to prevent delays in language learning.
- If your baby has a hearing loss, there are many ways we can help you and your baby.

What will happen if my baby doesn't pass the hearing screening test?

- Within the first month, either an audiologist (hearing specialist) or the birth hospital will test your baby and tell you the results and any next steps needed.
- A few babies will need more hearing testing, so you may be asked to bring your baby back to finish testing.
- If your baby needs more testing, get it done as soon as possible.
- All testing to find out if your baby has a hearing loss should be finished by 3 months.

What happens if my baby has hearing loss?

- Your baby will have his/her ears examined for possible causes of hearing loss by an Ear, Nose, and Throat (ENT) doctor.
- The audiologist will fit your baby with hearing device(s).
- Your baby will be referred for early intervention services.
- Within the first six months, your baby's doctor may make referrals to other doctors since hearing loss may indicate other health issues:
 - A **geneticist** who will see if there are family health issues that may affect your baby.
 - An **eye doctor** who will check your baby's eyes.
 - **Other special doctors** if necessary.

How many babies are born with a hearing loss?

Each year in the United States, as many as 12,000 babies are born with a hearing loss. The cause of hearing loss for many babies is not known, and hearing loss can go unnoticed for years.

It is important to identify hearing loss early. Early identification allows families to make decisions about their child's care that can affect speech, language, and social development.

More than 90% of babies with hearing loss have parents with normal hearing.

Finding hearing loss early can make a big difference in your baby's life.

If I have questions about my baby's hearing, what should I do?
Talk with your baby's doctor.

Where else can I get information?

Visit www.babyhearing.org,
www.cms-kids.com or
www.cdc.gov/Features/NewbornHearing

Some things a baby with normal hearing should be able to do:

Birth to 3 Months of Age

Blinks or jumps when there is a sudden, loud sound.

Quiets or smiles when spoken to.

Makes sounds like "ohh," "ahh."

3 to 6 Months of Age

Looks for sounds with eyes.

Starts babbling ("baba," "mama," "gaga").

Uses many sounds, squeals, and chuckles.

6 to 9 Months of Age

Turns head toward loud sounds.

Understands "no-no" or "bye-bye."

Babbles, for example "baba," "mama," "gaga."

9 to 12 Months of Age

Repeats simple words and sounds you make.

Correctly uses "mama" or "dada."

Responds to singing or music.

Points to favorite toys and objects when asked.

