



## UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM



Family and Community Health Bureau  
P.O. Box 202951  
Helena, MT 59620

406/444-6858

## LANGUAGE AND HEARING DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES

### Birth – 3 Months

- Startled by loud noises
- Soothed by familiar voices
- Makes vowel sounds – ooh, ahh
- Squeals, coos, laughs, gurgles

### 3 – 6 Months

- Makes a variety of sounds such as “ba-ba,” “gaba,” “ma”
- Seems to enjoy babbling
- Uses a variety of pitches
- Likes sound-making toys
- Turns eyes and head to sounds, including your voice

### 6 – 9 Months

- Responds to her or his own name
- Imitates speech by making non-speech sounds: coughing, clicking tongue, smacking lips
- Plays with sound through repetition: “la-la-la”
- Understands “no” and “bye-bye”
- Says “da-da” or “ma-ma”
- Listens to music or singing

### 9 – 12 Months

- Responds differently to happy or angry talking
- Turns head toward loud or soft sounds
- Jabbers in response to human voice
- Uses two or three words in addition to “da-da” or “ma-ma”
- Gives toys when asked
- Stops in response to “no”
- Follows simple directions

### 12 – 18 Months

- Identifies people, body parts and toys on request
- Locates sounds in all directions
- Names what she or he wants
- Talks in what sounds like sentences, with few understandable words
- Gestures with speech
- Bounces to music
- Repeats some words you say

### 18 – 24 Months

- Follows simple commands
- Speaks in two-word phrases, somewhat understandable
- Recognizes sounds in the environment—cars, dogs, vacuum, doorbell
- Has a vocabulary of 20 words or more

### 24 – 36 Months

- Understands difference in meaning: up/down, in/out, big/little
- Understands two part directions: “Get the ball and throw it to me”
- Uses two or three word phrases
- Asks questions, “Where’s Mommy?”



## UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

Every day, 33 babies (or 12,000 each year) are born in the United States with permanent hearing loss. With 3 of every 1,000 newborns having a hearing loss, it is the most frequently occurring birth defect. Children need to hear language to develop normal language skills. The critical time to establish a language base is in the first six months of life. Early detection and intervention of hearing loss gives the child the extra help necessary to develop language, social, emotional, and academic skills.

**The Screening Process** determines whether or not your newborn needs to be referred for further testing.

One of two technologies will be used to screen your baby's hearing.

Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR). Soft sounds are presented to your baby's ears through earphones. Electrodes (that resemble stickers) pick up the response from your baby's brain and send it to the instrument where it is analyzed automatically. The instrument gives a PASS/REFER result. The optimal time to perform this screen is at least six hours after the baby is born.

Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE). Soft sounds are presented to your baby's ear through tiny soft probes placed in the baby's ear canals. The instrument measures and automatically analyzes the echo that is

returned from the baby's ear. The instrument gives a PASS/REFER result. The optimal time to perform this screen is at least 24 hours after the baby is born.

**Pass/Refer Results** are determined right away. A **Pass** means that your baby's hearing does not need further testing at that time. A **Refer** means that your baby needs to be re-screened. With AABR equipment, your baby can be re-screened right away. With OAE equipment, the audiologist will schedule a time for you to bring your baby back for a re-screen prior to 30 days of birth. If your baby continues to get a **Refer** (with either technology) after the re-screen, an appointment with a pediatric diagnostic audiologist should be scheduled as soon as possible for more in depth (diagnostic) testing.

### **Who will screen your baby's hearing?**

An audiologist from the Hearing Conservation Program or a trained technician at a birthing hospital will screen your baby's hearing. Please ask your local school district for help in contacting the nearest audiologist (from the list) to schedule an appointment. Hearing screening can be performed in any quiet environment. The audiologist may be able to visit your home or you may be asked to bring your infant to the community school during sanctioned screening days or into the audiologist's office for hearing screening.



## MONTANA HEARING CONSERVATION/ EDUCATIONAL AUDIOLOGISTS

Suzanne Johnson Bressler, M.S.  
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Billings Public Schools  
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Montana Center on Disabilities  
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FMDH  
621 3rd St. South  
Glasgow, MT 59230  
406/228-3500 ext. 3325

## BIRTHING HOSPITALS

Community Hospital of Anaconda  
401 W. Pennsylvania  
Anaconda, MT 59711-1931  
406-563-8500

Fallon Medical Complex  
PO Box 820  
Baker, MT 59313-0820  
406-778-3331

Deaconess Billings Clinic  
PO Box 37000  
Billings, MT 59107-7000  
406-657-4000

St. Vincent Healthcare  
PO Box 35200  
Billings, MT 59107-5200  
406-657-7000

Bozeman Deaconess Hospital  
915 Highland Blvd  
Bozeman, MT 59715-6902  
406-585-5000

Blackfeet Community Hospital  
PO Box 760  
Browning, MT 59417-0760  
406-338-6157

St. James Healthcare  
PO Box 3300  
Butte, MT 59702-3300  
406-723-2500

Liberty County Hospital  
PO Box 705  
Chester, MT 59522-0705  
406-759-5181

Pondera Medical Center  
805 Sunset Blvd  
Conrad, MT 59425-1717  
406-278-3211

PHS Indian Hospital  
PO Box 9  
Crow Agency, MT 59022-0009  
406-638-2626

Northern Rockies Medical Center  
802 2nd St. SE  
Cut Bank, MT 59427-1828  
406-873-2251

Powell County Memorial Hospital  
1101 Texas Ave  
Deer Lodge, MT 59722-1828  
406-846-2212

Barrett Memorial Hospital  
1260 S Atlantic Ave  
Dillon, MT 59725-3557  
406-683-3000

Francis Mahon Deaconess Hosp.  
621 3rd St S  
Glasgow, MT 59230-2604  
406-228-4351

Glendive Medical Center  
202 Prospect Dr.  
Glendive, MT 59330-1943  
406-365-3306

Benefis Health Care  
500 15th Ave. S  
Great Falls, MT 59405-4324  
406-455-5000

Marcus Daly Memorial Hosp.  
1200 Westwood Dr.  
Hamilton, MT 59840  
406-363-2211

Big Horn Co. Memorial Hosp.  
PO Box 430  
Hardin, MT 59034-0430  
406-665-2310

Northern Montana Hospital  
PO Box 1231  
Havre, MT 59501-1231  
406-265-2211

St. Peter's Community Hosp.  
2475 Broadway St  
Helena, MT 59601-2480  
406-442-2480

Kalispell Regional Medical Ctr  
310 Sunny View Lane  
Kalispell, MT 59901-3129  
406-752-5111

Central MT Medical Center  
408 Wendell Ave.  
Lewistown, MT 59457  
406-538-7711

St. John's Lutheran Hosp.  
350 Louisiana Ave  
Libby, MT 59923  
406-293-7761

Livingston Memorial Hosp.  
504 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St.  
Livingston, MT 59047-3727  
406-222-3541

Holy Rosary Health Ctr  
2600 Wilson  
Hiles City, MT 59301-5094  
406-233-2600

Community Medical Ctr, Inc.  
2827 Ft. Missoula Road  
Missoula, MT 59804-7408  
406-728-4100

Clark Fork Valley Hosp  
PO Box 768  
Plains, MT 59859-0768  
406-826-3601

Sheridan Memorial Hosp  
440 W. Laurel Ave  
Plentywood, MT 59254-1526  
406-765-1420

St. Joseph Hospital  
PO Box 1010  
Polson, MT 59860-1010  
406-883-5377

Beartooth Hosp & Health Ctr  
PO Box 590  
Red Lodge, MT 59068-0590  
406-446-2345

St. Luke Community Hosp  
107 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
Ronan, MT 59864-2634  
406-676-4441

Marias Medical Center  
PO Box 915  
Shelby, MT 59474-0915  
406-434-3200

Sidney Health Center  
216 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
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406-488-3519

North Valley Hospital  
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Whitefish, MT 59937-2958  
406-863-2501

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