



WHEN YOUR BABY

Is Referred for



Diagnostic Hearing
Testing

What You Need to Know if Your Baby is Referred for Diagnostic Hearing Testing

Q&A

Why is my baby being referred for diagnostic hearing testing?

Your baby needs additional hearing testing to determine if there is a hearing loss. Only some of the babies referred for diagnostic testing will be found to have a hearing loss. It is important for you to take your baby for these diagnostic hearing tests.

Why is this testing important?

Hearing helps your baby learn to communicate: to understand what others say and to learn to talk. Any hearing loss can cause delays or difficulties in learning speech and language skills. This is why it is so important to identify hearing loss quickly. Starting services early will help you and your baby develop effective communication.

What is hearing loss?

Hearing loss is any condition that affects how your baby perceives sound. It can be permanent or temporary, mild, moderate, severe or profound. If diagnostic testing confirms a hearing loss, it will also identify the type and degree of hearing loss.



What tests might be done?

Audiometry - group of tests used by audiologists to measure hearing.

Auditory Brainstem Response, ABR, BSER or BAER- test that uses sensors placed on your baby to measure the response to sound given through earphones. This test is done while your baby is sleeping.

Otoacoustic Emissions or OAE - test that uses a soft tip similar to an earplug placed in your baby's ear. The earplug is connected to a computer that records responses to sound from your baby's inner ear, or cochlea. The test is done while your baby is sleeping or very still.

What will happen when my baby has diagnostic hearing testing?

Your baby will have special hearing testing. This follow-up or diagnostic testing is given and interpreted by an audiologist, takes several hours to complete, and gives comprehensive information about your baby's ability to hear. None of the test procedures used cause discomfort or harm your baby. You can contact an audiologist if you have any questions.

Which professionals might see my baby?

Primary, Medical or Pediatric Care Provider or Pediatrician - professional who gives medical care to your baby.

Audiologist - professional who specializes in testing hearing and providing related services.
Ear, Nose and Throat Physician (ENT), Otolaryngologist or Otologist - medical doctor who specializes in the care of the ear.

Genetic counselor - professional who provides education, counseling and support to families with known or suspected inherited traits.

Medical geneticist- medical doctor who can help determine if there are other problems related to hearing loss.

What if my baby has a hearing loss?

Your baby has the same wonderful possibilities ahead as any other baby. Your baby with a hearing loss can be happy and successful. Your baby can grow up to be an active member of his or her family, community and workplace. There are people who are deaf or hard of hearing in a variety of occupations.

Hearing testing should be done any time there is concern about a child's hearing

Why is Communication Important?

- Your baby needs the ability to communicate as soon as possible. This may be through sign language and/or speech.
- Parents and caregivers are the most important people in helping your baby learn to communicate.
- Communication should be two-way: from you to your baby and from your baby to his or her parent.
- Your baby begins language development at birth. Language is the key to all learning.

How can Family-Centered Early Supports & Services (ESS) help?

If your baby has a hearing loss, services are available to your family to help him or her learn as much as possible. The ESS staff will help you learn ways to support your baby's communication from the start. To find the ESS program in your area, talk to your child's doctor or call the Family Resource Connection at 800-298-4321.

Questions or concerns about diagnostic hearing testing?

- Contact your hospital's newborn hearing screening program
- Talk to your medical provider
- Use the Web site www.listen-up.org

Your baby has an appointment with:

Phone _____

On _____ At _____

For more information, contact:

New Hampshire Department of
Health & Human Services
Office of Community & Public Health
Bureau of Maternal & Child Health

Universal Newborn Hearing
Screening Program
6 Hazen Drive, Concord NH 03301

Phone: 800-852-3345, Ext. 1037 or
603-271-1037

Relay New Hampshire TTY: 711

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