



DELAWARE NEWBORN
HEARING SCREENING
PROGRAM

Listen Carefully!

It's very important to have your newborn's hearing checked.

NEWBORN

HEARING
SCREENING

PROGRAM





Hearing and spoken language are tied together. A baby must be able to hear in order to develop spoken language. It is important to identify babies who have a hearing loss, so they can receive the appropriate support and services they need at a young age to begin to communicate.

Babies can't tell us they can't hear, but a simple screening can!

All birthing sites provide hearing screening prior to discharge.

It is important to have your baby's hearing checked.

The incidence of hearing loss is 2-3 per 1,000 births. This is why it is important to test all newborn babies before they leave the hospital.

A trained person will screen your baby's hearing using special computerized equipment.

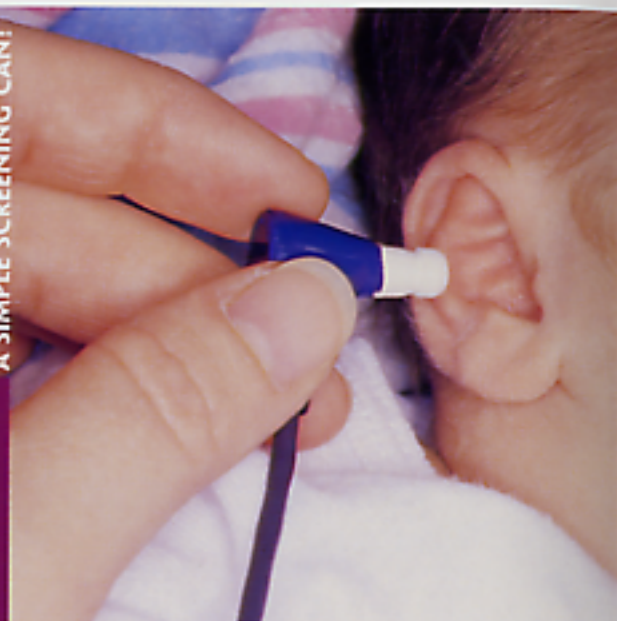
The screening test is not painful and can be given while your baby is asleep. It will show whether your baby's hearing is normal, or if further testing is needed.

You will receive the results of the hearing screening before you leave the hospital.

Is there a fee for newborn hearing screening?

Families do not receive a bill for newborn hearing screening. Delaware hospitals and birthing facilities voluntarily screen newborns.

BABIES CAN'T TELL US THEY CAN'T HEAR BUT
A SIMPLE SCREENING CAN!



What if your baby needs to be re-screened?

About 1 out of every 10 newborns will need to be re-screened. This does not mean he or she is deaf or hard of hearing. Sometimes the baby is too fussy during the screening or there is birthing debris in the ears.

If the screening results indicate your infant should be re-screened, it is important to have it done within the first month. The hospital will schedule an appointment for you to have this re-screening completed by trained personnel.



Some babies need to be tested again, even if they pass the first screening.

Some babies will pass their first screening. However, they have certain risk factors that could cause a hearing loss to occur later. These babies will need to be re-screened at three months of age.

Ask your baby's doctor if re-screening at three months is needed. It can make a big difference in your baby's life if you find hearing loss early.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (800) 262-3030
OR (302) 744-4551.

Your child's most important learning takes place during the first years of life.



Did you know that babies begin to understand words at the moment they are born?

They are already learning speech and language even though they won't say their first words until about 12 months of age.

You may write or call us at:

Newborn Screening Program
Division of Public Health
P.O. Box 637
Dover, DE 19903

Telephone: (302) 744-4551
Toll Free: (800) 262-3030
Fax: (302) 739-6653
Or (302) 739-6617



**Delaware Health
and Social Services**

Division of Public Health

In collaboration with Delaware Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Advisory Board and all birthing facilities.

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