

Information for Families
About the

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Guam Early Hearing Detection & Intervention
(GEHDI)



CAN MY
BABY
HEAR?

What is newborn hearing screening?

Newborn hearing screening identifies which babies might have a hearing loss.

Hearing loss is any condition that affects how a baby perceives sound. Ask your medical care provider about hearing screening for your baby.



When is newborn hearing screening done?

Hearing screening is done soon after birth while your baby is in the hospital. Some babies will require additional screening. This additional screening should be completed by 2 weeks of age.

Why is the screening done?

A hearing loss will delay a child's speech or language development. Language develops very quickly in the early years of life. It is the foundation for all learning. Services to minimize delays in development should begin before your baby is 6 months old.



How is the hearing screening done?

Screening is done with special hearing screening equipment. It is quick, easy, non-invasive and does not hurt. Many babies sleep through the screening. Hospitals use the Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) screening that uses sensitive microphones placed in the baby's ear canal. It is done while your baby is sleeping or very quiet. The machine records the ear's response to sounds (called clicks or tone bursts).



Where is the hearing screening done?

At birth, screening is done in the hospital or birthing center. If your baby is referred for follow-up, or if you suspect problems with hearing, testing is done at the Guam Early Intervention System's Pediatrics Evaluation Developmental Services (PEDS) Center located at the University of Guam, Dean's Circle, House 17.

What happens when my baby is referred for further testing?

When referred, it is important to take your baby to his or her appointment for diagnostic testing by an audiologist. This is the only way to know if your child has a hearing loss. The testing should be completed before your baby is 3 months old. About 50 babies out of 1000 will be referred for diagnostic testing. Of the babies referred, about 3 will show a hearing loss.



When should children have hearing screening?

Hearing loss can occur at any time. Use the **Hearing & Related Speech/Language Guide** (on the back) every few months to keep track of your baby's development. If your child does not do the items listed, discuss them with your child's medical care provider. Hearing screening should be repeated as children grow.

Hearing screening should be done any time there is a concern about your child's hearing.

HEARING & RELATED SPEECH/LANGUAGE
GUIDE

YOUR BABY SHOULD...

Birth to 3 Months

- Pass newborn hearing screening
- Quiet to familiar voices
- Be startled by loud sounds
- Stir to noises while sleeping

3 to 6 Months

- Turn toward voices or unfamiliar noises
- Locate speaker or sound accurately within a room
- React to sound (like smiles, quiets or cries)

6 to 12 Months

- Respond to name
- React to noises without seeing the source (like door opening)
- Imitate sounds
- Babble sounds like da, ba, and ma
- Enjoy playing with toys that make noise

12 to 24 Months

- Develop words rapidly (about: 1-3 words by 12-14 months, 10-15 words by 18 months)
- Follow simple directions (like "go get your shoes") without you pointing
- Quiet and look when sound is presented (like adult reading story)
- Begin to identify body parts (like eyes and nose)

2 Years

- Attend and respond to verbal cues, when interested
- Combine words, add words daily (says about 50 words)

3 Years

- Understand without needing words repeated
- Understand difference between similar sounding words (like candle/camel; how/who; cat/car)
- Attend to listening activities like story time
- Usually be understood by strangers
- Respond to communication or sound equally well when outside or inside and in quiet or noisy places

4 Years - 5 Years

- Listen to music or other household sounds at comfortable volume level
- Understand most comments or requests without repetition



For more information, contact the:

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