

## HEARING CHECKLIST FOR A SOUND START

Does your child...

**YES NO FROM BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS:**

- Jump or blink to loud sounds?  
  Wake up to loud sounds?  
  Quiet down when he or she hears your voice even if he or she cannot see you?

**AT 3-6 MONTHS:**

- Turn his or her eyes or head to search for the sound source?  
  Respond to your voice even when you cannot be seen?  
  Enjoy toys that make sounds?

**AT 6 MONTHS:**

- Respond to his or her name?  
  Turn head to the direction of the sound source?

**AT 10-12 MONTHS:**

- Understand and follow simple directions?  
  Give a block or toy to you when you ask for it without pointing?

**AT 13-18 MONTHS:**

- Follow simple one step directions?  
  Use 3-20 single words?  
  Point to 1-3 body parts when asked?

**AT 19-24 MONTHS:**

- Understand approximately 300 words?  
  Put two words together by 24 months of age?  
  Point to five body parts?  
  Respond to yes or no questions?

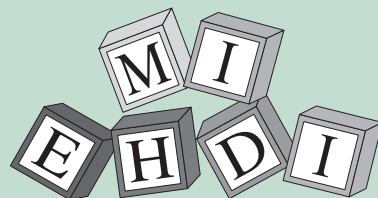
**If you answer NO to any of these questions, don't wait! Tell your doctor or nurse and ask to have your baby's hearing tested.**

**The Newborn Hearing Screening Program is a statewide project involving:**

- Local hospitals and providers
- Michigan Department of Community Health
- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Health and Hospital Association
- Organizations and agencies for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

**For more information, please contact:**

Michigan Early Hearing Detection and Intervention  
 Michigan Department of Community Health  
 Division of Family and Community Health  
 109 W. Michigan Ave - 3rd Floor  
 P.O. Box 30195  
 Lansing, MI 48909  
 517-335-8955 VP: 517-335-8273  
 Fax: 517-335-8036



Michigan Early Hearing Detection  
and Intervention Program

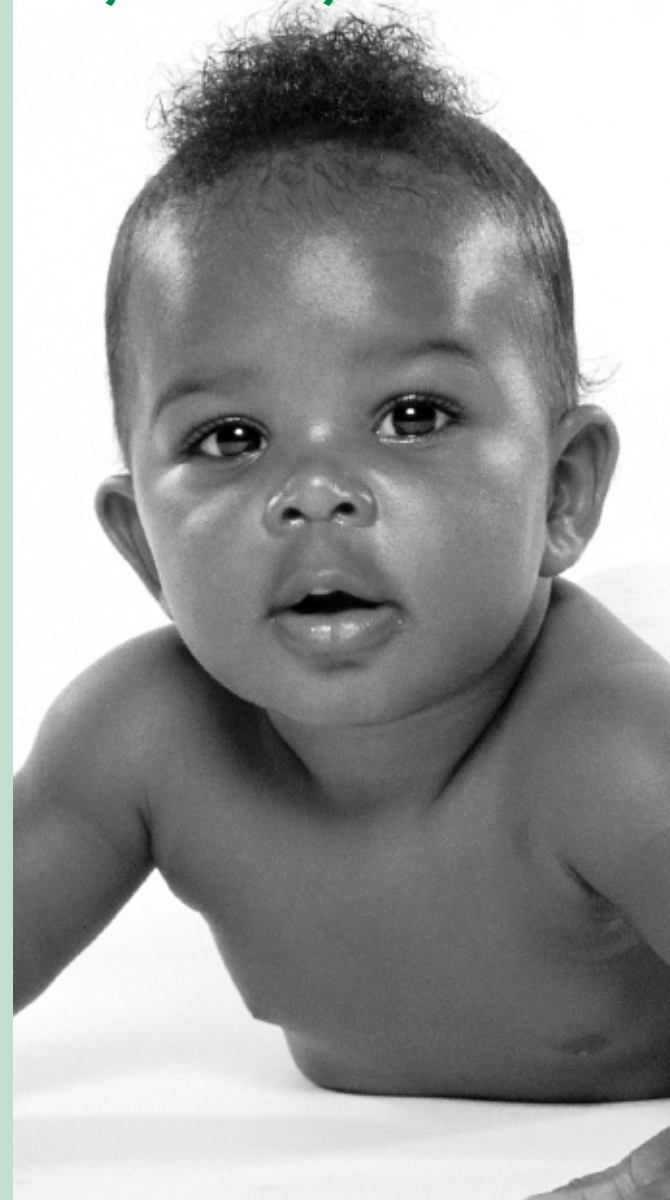
Michigan Department  
of Community Health



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## Michigan's Community Hearing Screening Program

### Information for Parents



**Dear Parents:**

Did you know that babies begin to understand language from the moment of birth? Speech and language are already developing even though first words won't be spoken until about 12 months of age.

It is important to identify babies who have a hearing loss, so they can receive help with communication development at a young age.

This pamphlet will tell you about an important program in Michigan that checks newborns for hearing loss before they leave the hospital.

**Help your baby get  
off to a sound start!**

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



### Why Does My Baby Need A Hearing Test?

Hearing loss sometimes occurs in newborns. You might be expecting it because of your family history, or because your baby has other health problems. Often it is totally unexpected. About one in every 200 newborns has a hearing loss that can affect speech and language development.

### How Can My Baby's Hearing Be Tested?

Hearing loss in newborn babies can easily be detected by a simple screening test. While in a natural sleep soon after birth, your baby's hearing can be checked using special computerized equipment. The screening test is painless and takes just a few minutes. In fact, most babies sleep through the entire procedure.

### What Does The Screening Mean?

If your baby passes, it means that a hearing loss was not found at birth. If your baby had a referral, it means that he or she should be checked by an audiologist.

### How Will I Get Results?

You will be notified of your baby's screening results either before or shortly after you go home from the hospital. If the results show a pass, it means there is no hearing problem at this time. About one out of 10 newborns will not pass the screening test. If your baby does not pass, it does not mean the baby is deaf or hard-of-hearing. It means the baby needs to have another test. Sometimes the baby was too restless during the screening procedure or there was a temporary problem that will correct itself.

### What If My Baby Needs Another Test?

If time permits, another screening may be done before you leave the hospital. If not, you will be told how to arrange another test. Your baby will be referred to an audiologist or otolaryngologist for further testing after discharge. If follow-up testing is suggested, it should be done as soon as possible.

Your primary care physician or clinic can assist you with questions and a referral if this is not done prior to leaving the hospital. Many insurances cover audiology services. There are also programs to assist families who may not have insurance coverage for their newborn. If you need help or have any concerns, you may contact

• An **audiologist** is a person who specializes in testing for hearing loss and provides non-medical treatment and rehabilitation services for people with hearing impairment.

• An **otolaryngologist** is a medical doctor who specializes in problems of the ears, nose and throat (ENT).

your local health department in the county where you live.

### Are There Services For Babies With Hearing Loss?

Yes. Once a hearing impairment is confirmed, services should begin as soon as possible (by six months of age if diagnosed as a newborn). Your baby might be helped by medical treatment or hearing aids or working with special education teachers.

• A **speech-language pathologist** is a person who specializes in identifying and helping treat speech delay and language disorders.

• A **special education teacher** is a school teacher who specializes in teaching different types of language and communication skills.

### Where Can I Find Help If My Baby Has Hearing Loss?

A variety of organizations are available. Assistance in obtaining and coordinating services for infants with hearing loss is available in every community. For more information, call:

**1-800-EARLY ON (327-5966)**



### What Should I Watch For As My Baby Grows?

Babies learn quickly during the first years of life. Good hearing plays an important role in development. Hearing loss can develop later on in life and can be temporary or permanent. You need to watch your baby for signs of ear infections or hearing loss, which include:

- **Rubbing, pulling or scratching the ears**
- **Fussy or cranky behavior**
- **Unexplained fevers**
- **Runny ears**
- **No response or a change in response to your voice or sounds**

Use the checklist in this pamphlet to follow your baby's development. If you ever think that your child has trouble hearing, ask your doctor or nurse to help you arrange a hearing test.

**There is never a good reason to delay if you have a concern!**