

CNMI's Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Program

**It Is Important To Have Your
Baby's Hearing Checked...**



**Babies Can't Tell Us
If They Can't Hear.**

Why Should My Baby's Hearing Be Screened

Undetected hearing loss may delay a baby's speech, language and knowledge development. More than half of babies born with hearing problems are otherwise healthy and have no family history of hearing loss. Therefore, to be sure we identify every baby with hearing loss; the Department of Public Health has implemented a newborn hearing screening program so that all babies are screened before hospital discharge.

Of course, it is unlikely that your baby will have a hearing loss. However, it is important for you to be sure that your baby has normal hearing. The first year of life is critical to the development of normal language and speech.

How Can Baby's Hearing Be Tested?

Hearing loss in newborn babies can easily be detected by a simple screening test. 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?

A "pass" result indicates that your baby hears at levels required for normal speech and language development at the time of the screening.

If your child has a "refer", this does not mean that your child has a hearing impairment. A "refer" result indicates that your baby will be recommended for further testing at a later date.

What are the chances that my baby will not pass this screening test or really have a hearing loss?

About 5 babies per 100 do not pass their initial test but less than 3 per 1000 actually have a real hearing loss. Babies who do not pass the second test need a diagnostic evaluation to decide if a hearing loss exists, and the degree and nature of the hearing loss. The diagnostic test should be done within 3 months of age.

It is important that you follow through with any recommendations made by your hospital staff, audiologist, and/or doctor.

Some babies who do not have hearing loss present at birth may be at risk for developing hearing loss later. Babies identified as being at risk for delayed hearing loss should be retested at 9-12 months of age.

Is There a Treatment For Babies With Hearing Loss?



Yes. All babies with hearing loss can be helped. Once a hearing loss is confirmed, services should begin as soon as possible (by 6 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.

Hearing Check list For a Sound Start Does your Child...

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Birth to 2 months:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jump or startle to loud sounds? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wake up to loud sounds? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Recognize your voice when you speak? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>3-6 months:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Turn towards interesting sound or your voice? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Enjoy toys that make sounds? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Make gurgling, cooing and babbling sounds? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>At 6 months:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Respond to his or her name? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Turn head to the direction of the sound source? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>10-12 months</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Understand and follow simple directions? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Give a block or toy to you when you ask for it without pointing? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>13-18 months</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Follow simple one step directions? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use 3 - 20 single words. Point to 1 - 3 body parts? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>19 - 24 months</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Understand approximately 300 words? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Put two words together "eat cookie" by 24 months? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Respond to "yes" or "no" questions? |

Your Baby's Hearing Screening Results:

- Passed, Both Ears
- "Refer" for further testing
- Right Ear
- Left Ear



If you have questions about CNMI's Universal Newborn Hearing Program or your baby's hearing test, please contact:

- Your primary care physician
- Dr. Voros, M.D., FRCPC
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