

YOUR BABY should receive a Newborn Hearing Screening before leaving the hospital. This brochure will answer questions about how the test is performed and why.

We Care That Your Baby Hears

**first
sounds**



TEST THEIR HEARING!

First Sounds of North Dakota is working to ensure every child born in ND will receive a hearing screening.

Important Facts on Newborn Hearing Screening:

- ★ Research has shown nearly 50% of newborns with hearing loss will not be diagnosed until at least the second year of life.
- ★ One of the most common and important signs of possible hearing loss is a delay in speech and language development.
- ★ The earlier the hearing loss is discovered, the sooner early intervention can begin.
- ★ Previous studies have shown children have better language and academic outcomes when infant hearing loss is identified early and intervention is started prior to six months of age. (Yoshingaga-Itano, 1999)

How is the hearing screening conducted?

- ★ All ND Birthing hospitals will be provided equipment and training to conduct Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI).
- ★ Each child should be screened at birth prior to hospital discharge.
- ★ Testing will be done through either:
 - Evoked Otoacoustic Emissions
 - Auditory Brainstem Evoked Response
- ★ If the first screening is abnormal, re-screening should be completed within two to six weeks.
- ★ Results and follow-up will be tracked to insure appropriate screening services, diagnostic services, early intervention services and family support services. The child's physician will be kept updated. Funding for this data collection is provided by the Sertoma Clubs of North Dakota.

What are Auditory Brainstem Evoked Responses (ABR) and Otoacoustic Emission Testing (OAE)?

ABR:

This is an objective test used on infants, children and adults. The test evaluates how sound is transmitted from the ear through the auditory nerve up to the brain. A series of clicks are presented to the infant's ear while a computer records the responses from information received from electrodes placed on the infant. The procedure is non invasive (does not penetrate the skin) and requires the infant to be asleep, or remain quiet.

OAE:

This objective test requires a sleeping or very quiet baby for accurate test results. The test consists of a small probe microphone placed in the outer ear canal of the infant. An OAE is a sound produced by the inner ear after a different sound from the probe is sent to the ear. The microphone in the probe records the emissions from the inner ear and sends the information to a computer to be recorded and averaged.



What happens if my child is referred for further screening?

- ★ A referral will be made from the hospital.
 - ★ Rescreening is scheduled two to six weeks after the initial screening.
 - ★ If rescreening is not passed, the child will be referred for a complete audiological evaluation with an audiologist.
 - ★ Once a hearing loss is identified, a referral for early intervention services will begin.
 - ★ The family will receive a referral for family support services.
 - ★ In some cases, children who pass the newborn screenings may develop hearing loss later on in life.
- **Your child's doctor will be informed and kept updated of all the above steps.**



Why does my baby need a hearing screening?

- ★ Children with undetected hearing loss are at greater risk for delayed development in speech and language.
- ★ When hearing loss is addressed before six months of age, children are able to develop language skills and do better in school than if the hearing loss is not detected until they are older.
- ★ Newborn hearing screening provides parents with a peace of mind that their baby will receive follow-up and support services as needed.

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention for North Dakota (EHD):

Over 90% of all infants born in North Dakota will receive hearing screenings before hospital discharge through First Sounds.

Infants identified with a hearing loss will be referred to appropriate services so early intervention will occur.

The First Sounds project is funded through a Federal Grant. Almost \$700,000 will be used over the next four years for the sole purpose of universal newborn screenings in North Dakota.

Phone: 800-233-1737

Fax: 701-858-3483

Website: www.ndcpd.org/1stsounds

Personnel for First Sounds:

Bryce Fifield (Ph.D.)
Executive Director of NDCPD
Project Coordinator

Thomas M. Froelich (MS, CCA)
Training Coordinator

Stephanie Martin (Ph.D., CCC-A/SLP)
Training Coordinator

Larry Martin (Au.D., CCC-A)
Technology Coordinator

Sue Burns (R.N., B.S.N.)
State Implementation Coordinator

Agencies supporting Universal Newborn Hearing Screenings:

American Speech-Hearing-Language Association (ASHA)
American Academy of Audiology
American Academy of Pediatrics
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Children's Special Health Services of North Dakota
Department of Public Instruction
Indian Health Services
Marion Downs National Center for Infant Hearing (MNCIH)
Maternal Child Health (MCH) Department of Health
Minot State University Communication Disorders Clinic (MSU CDC)
National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management
North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD)
North Dakota Family to Family Network
Parent Infant Outreach Program thru ND School for the Deaf
University of ND Medical Genetics and Participating Hospitals

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