



WE CARE THAT YOUR BABY HEARS

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.

first
sounds



Early Hearing Detection & Intervention

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

IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR
BABY'S HEARING CHECKED



Your baby can't tell you if he or she can hear. Babies who have difficulty hearing may have problems learning to talk.

When hearing problems are detected early, a baby is better able to learn language. This will help him or her prepare for and do better in school.



Professionals can best help your baby if a hearing loss is found before six months of age.

Newborn Hearing Screening is safe, quick, and easy to do.



Having your baby's hearing checked now will give you peace of mind in knowing your baby is getting the best possible start on life. The other side of this brochure includes more information about the Newborn Hearing Screening Program.

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Why should my baby's hearing be tested?

Significant hearing loss is one of the most common major abnormalities present at birth, and, if undetected, will cause problems with speech, language, and cognitive development. In fact, one of the most common signs of hearing loss is a delay in speech and language development. When hearing loss is found early, steps can be taken to help children overcome the challenges that may result.



How is the testing done?

Testing will be done through either Evoked Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) or Auditory Brainstem Evoked Response (ABR).

The OAE test consists of a small probe microphone placed in the baby's outer ear canal. A sound is sent from the probe to the inner ear, and the microphone picks up the sounds sent back.

The ABR testing measures the brain's response to clicks presented through miniature earphones. Sensors measure your baby's entire hearing pathway.

Both tests are very safe, do not hurt, and take only minutes to complete. Most babies sleep through the test.

What do the results mean?

Your baby will either pass or be referred for further screening. In some cases, children who pass the newborn screenings may develop hearing loss later on in life. Be sure to attend your well-baby appointments and watch for the speech, language, and hearing milestones listed in the following column.

If your baby is referred for additional screening, the hospital will tell you. Re-screening is scheduled 2 to 6 weeks after the initial screening. If the re-screening is not passed, your child will be referred for a complete audiological evaluation with an audiologist. If a hearing loss is identified, a referral for early intervention and family support services will be made.



Speech, Language & Hearing Milestones Be sure your baby is reaching these milestones

Around 2 months of Age:

- ♥ Startles to loud noises
- ♥ Quiets to familiar voices
- ♥ Makes vowel sounds like "ohh" & "ahh"

Around 4 months of Age:

- ♥ Looks for sounds with eyes
- ♥ Starts babbling
- ♥ Uses a variety of voice sounds, such as squeals, whimpers, and chuckles

Around 6 months of Age:

- ♥ Turns head toward sound
- ♥ Begins to imitate speech sounds
- ♥ Babbles ("ba-ba" & "ga-ga")

Around 9 months of Age:

- ♥ Imitates speech sounds of others
- ♥ Understands "no-no" & "bye-bye"
- ♥ Turns head toward soft sounds

Around 12 months of Age:

- ♥ Correctly uses words like "ma-ma" or "da-da"
- ♥ Gives toy when asked
- ♥ Responds to singing or music
- ♥ Locates sound in all directions