

YOUR BABY'S HEARING: *What Every Parent Should Know*

How will you know if your baby can hear?

Most babies with normal hearing:

- Startle to loud sounds; stir from sleep or stop sucking in response to loud sound..... Newborn
- Begin to turn eyes or head toward a sound; appear to listen..... 3-6 mos.
- Look directly at a new sound or voice; respond to their name; make a variety of babbling sounds..... 6-9 mos.
- Look toward objects and people when named(i.e. kitty, grandma); imitate speech sounds..... 9-12 mos.
- Say their first word..... approx. 12 mos.

Some conditions that may be associated with hearing loss:

- A relative who has had hearing loss from a young age
- Meningitis
- Abnormalities of the head and neck (such as cleft palate and ear deformities)
- Low birth weight-less than 3.3 pounds
- Infections such as German Measles (Rubella), CMV, herpes, or syphilis present in the pregnant mother or baby at birth
- Presence of a syndrome such as Waardenburg, Down, or Treacher-Collins
- Jaundice in the newborn severe enough to require blood transfusion
- Intensive Care Nursery placement for more than 24 hours

Parents are often the first to suspect that their baby might have a hearing loss!

If you have concerns about your baby's hearing, remember that *no child is too young to be tested*. Early identification of hearing loss is imperative. It's true that medicine and surgery can clear up some hearing problems. However, for other kinds of hearing loss, hearing aids and early education programs are *critical*. For children with permanent hearing loss, *early identification, early amplification and early education are essential*.

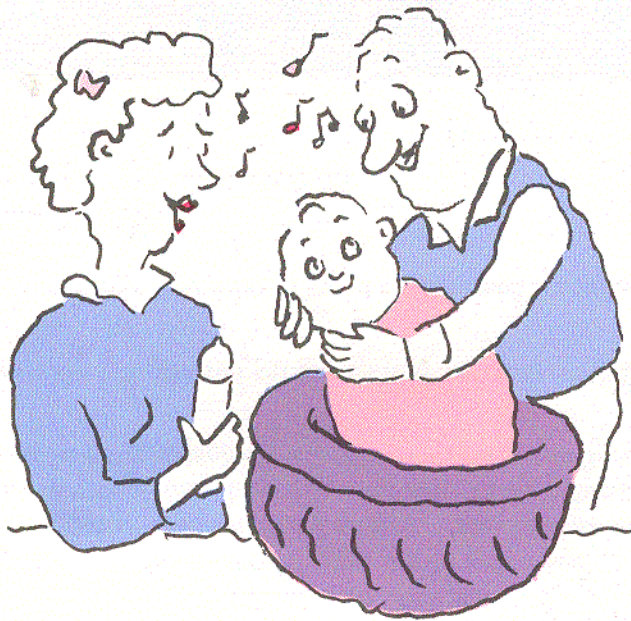
In Nebraska, your school district is required to provide educational programs and services for infants and preschool children with special needs.

If you are concerned about baby's hearing, contact: Baby's Doctor • Your School District • A Licensed Audiologist

TIME IS IMPORTANT!

For more information call: NSLHA (402) 476-9573

As parents, you are fascinated with your baby's growth. When your baby coos, babbles and starts to talk, you are delighted. You may not realize that your baby's hearing is critical to the development of speech and language. The baby with hearing loss will have difficulty learning to talk.



nsha

Nebraska Speech • Language • Hearing Association
1033 "K" St. • Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Nebraska Sertoma Clubs

All rights reserved. No part of this brochure may be reproduced or utilized without the permission of the publishers, NSLHA.

Illustrations by David Garner