

# Your Baby's Hearing Development

Newborn Hearing Screening Program  
Family Health Services  
Oklahoma State Department of Health  
1000 Northeast Tenth Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1299

**1.800.766.2223**

Statewide

or

**271.6617**

Oklahoma City Metro Area  
(Voice or TTY)

Check to see if your baby can do most of the things listed. Insist on a hearing test if you have any concerns about your baby's hearing development.

## Birth to 3 months

Is startled by loud sound  
Is soothed by mother's voice

## 3 to 6 months

Turns eyes and head to search for location of sound  
Responds to mother's voice  
Imitates his own noises-oohs, ba-bas, etc.  
Enjoys rattles and other sound-making toys

## 6 to 10 months

Responds to his own name, telephone ringing, and someone's voice, even when not loud  
Understands "no", "bye-bye", and other common words

## 10 to 15 months

Can point to or look for familiar objects or people when asked to do so  
Imitates simple words and sounds  
First words appear

## 15 to 18 months

Follows simple spoken directions  
Says 8 - 10 words by 18 months  
Begins to put 2 words together

This publication was printed and issued by the Oklahoma State Department of Health, as authorized by James M. Crutcher, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health and Commissioner of Health. 50,000 copies were printed in September 2007 by The Galt Foundation at a cost of \$3,740. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Designed by: Marylee Braun-Wright



Family Health Services  
Oklahoma State  
Department of Health

P-530

# oklahoma

## Newborn Hearing Screening



# Newborn Hearing Screening

## What is Newborn Hearing Screening?

Newborn hearing screening checks your infant's hearing shortly after birth. Almost all Oklahoma hospitals screen hearing before a newborn goes home. Two kinds of hearing screening are used with babies. Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) screening checks how well your infant hears soft sounds through tiny earphones. Sensors are placed on your baby's head. The sensors are connected to a computer. The computer checks brainwaves to see if the sounds are heard normally. With Oto-acoustic Emissions (OAE), very faint sounds are picked-up from each ear with a tiny microphone. Then the sound is sent to a special computer. The computer tells if your baby's hearing is okay. Both screening methods are very safe. Each can be done in just a few minutes. Most newborns sleep through the test.

## Why should my baby's hearing be screened?

In the first years of life, your child learns how to communicate. First, babies learn to understand what people say. Then they start to talk themselves. Good hearing is needed for this to happen. Hearing problems should be identified as early as possible. If a hearing loss is found, actions can be taken to help your baby develop communication.

## How will I know if my baby's hearing was screened?

Ask the birthing site staff. They will tell you. Oklahoma law requires information about hearing to be recorded for all babies. The hospital fills out a form. The pink copy is sent home with every newborn. This form tells if your baby's hearing was checked. It also gives screening results.

## Does a screening tell me if my baby can hear?

Yes. The screening equipment gives results as PASS or REFER (does not pass). If your newborn gets a PASS, your infant's hearing is good enough for language development. If your baby gets a REFER, more testing is needed. You may be sent to an audiologist. An audiologist is a hearing specialist.

## If my baby passes the screening, will I need to have hearing tested again?

Perhaps. There are some conditions that cause hearing loss later in life. One is a family history of deafness. Others include various illnesses. Children often have temporary hearing loss when they have ear infections. Watch for your baby's response to sound. Note his speech and language development. Insist on a hearing test if you become concerned. Your child's hearing can be tested at any age.

## What if I have other questions about hearing?

Please call the Newborn Hearing Screening program for answers. The statewide toll-free number is 1-800-766-2223. The Oklahoma City Metropolitan area number is 271-6617. The phone is answered Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Both numbers are voice or TTY.



## Referral Resources for Infant Hearing Testing

The Newborn Hearing Screening Program **1.800.766.2223**  
(Voice or TTY)

OASIS (Information and referral service for children and adults with special needs) **1.800.426.2747**  
(Voice or TTY)

Your baby's doctor

Your County Health Department

Your local SoonerStart early intervention program (OASIS or your County Health Department will help you find the number)

Your county Department of Human Services office, Children with Special Health Care Needs program