

## Facts About... Newborn Hearing Screening and Your Baby



\*Look closely. Both infants are wearing hearing aids.

- Your baby learns from the time it is born. One way your baby learns is through hearing.
- Pennsylvania hospitals are screening newborns within the first 30 days of life to detect early hearing loss. The test is fast and painless and can be given to babies soon after birth.
- Your baby will have the best chance to learn to speak well if any hearing loss is identified and treated by the time your baby is 6 months of age or sooner.
- The Department of Health works with hospitals, physicians and audiologists to assure all Pennsylvania newborns are screened for hearing loss and, if

needed, that they are referred for further testing, treatment, support services, and *Early Intervention*.

- *Early Intervention* is a service in Pennsylvania that builds on the natural learning that occurs in the first years of your child's life. With your help, *Early Intervention* services and supports can enhance your child's development and reduce the need for costly services in the future.
- If your baby is diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing, *Early Intervention*:
  - Can answer your questions about hearing loss and its impact on child development
  - Can teach you how to interact and communicate with your baby
  - Can help your baby acquire hearing aids and other listening devices.

Call *Early Intervention Services*  
1-800-CONNECT  
(1-800-692-7288)

For more information  
1-800-986-BABY (Voice & TTY)  
(1-800-986-2229)

[www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us)

**WE'RE THERE. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**For Your Health. For Your Community.**

*Mark Schweiker, Governor • Bob Zimmerman, Secretary of Health*

Photograph provided by the National Center for Health Assessment and Management.

