



VIRGINIA'S

Newborn
Hearing
Screening
Program

Helps You Know If Your Baby Can Hear

It Is Important To Have Your Baby's Hearing Checked

As many as 500 babies are born in Virginia every year with hearing loss. That is why it is important to test all newborn babies before they leave the

hospital. If your baby can't hear well, he or she may have problems learning to talk. If you find hearing loss early, your child will have the best chance to learn.



Babies Can't Tell Us If They Can't Hear

A Trained Person Will Test Your Baby's Hearing

Your baby will feel no pain. In fact, the screening test can be given while your baby is asleep. It will show whether your baby's hearing is normal or whether more testing is needed.

You will get the results of the hearing screening test before you leave the hospital.

What If My Baby Does Not Pass?

If your baby does not pass the first hearing screening test, you should make sure he or she has another test within one month. The hospital will refer you to a licensed audiologist for the second test. An audiologist is a person who is trained to do hearing tests on infants and young children.



Some Babies Need To Be Tested Again, Even If They Pass the First Test

Some babies can hear well enough to pass the first test but lose their hearing later. For this reason, some babies should be tested again when they are six months old.

Ask your doctor if your baby should be re-tested.

Check On Your Baby's Hearing At Home

It is a good idea to check on how well your baby hears and talks as he or she grows. If you are worried about your child's hearing or talking, call the doctor right away.

It can make a big difference in your child's life if you find a hearing loss early.

Remember that it is never too early to test your child's hearing.

Photo courtesy of Natus Medical Inc.

How You Can Keep Check on Your Baby's Hearing

Here are some things a child with normal hearing should be able to do. Keep this list so you can use it often to check on your child.

0 - 3 Months

- * Jumps at a sudden, loud noise
- * Calms down when you speak

3 - 6 Months

- * Turns head or moves eyes to find your voice
- * Plays at making noises and sounds

6 - 10 Months

- * Reacts to hearing his name
- * Begins to understand easy words like "no" and "bye-bye"

10 - 15 Months

- * Repeats simple words and sounds you make
- * Uses two to three words other than "ma-ma" or "da-da"

18 Months

- * Follows simple spoken directions
- * Uses seven or more true words

24 Months

- * Understands when you call from another room
- * Points to body parts when asked

The Newborn Hearing Screening Program

This program helps you know whether your newborn baby has hearing loss. The program is the result of a Virginia law that says all babies will be screened for hearing loss before they leave the hospital.

For more information call the Virginia Department of Health at (804) 371-4131 (Voice). Or you can visit our Website at:
www.vahealth.org/hearing.

For referral information call 1-800-230-6977.

TTY users dial through relay at 7-1-1 or 1-800-828-1120.

Parents have the right to refuse the hearing screening if their religion does not allow it.

