

High Risk Factors for Hearing Loss

The following are risk factors that require additional testing after a successful newborn hearing screening:

- Family history of permanent hearing loss in childhood
- Maternal infections during pregnancy or delivery (Toxoplasmosis , Syphilis, HIV, Hepatitis B, Rubella , CMV, Herpes simplex, and others)
- Physical problems of the head, face, ears, or neck (cleft lip/palate, ear pits/tags, atresia, and others)
- Ototoxic medications given in the neonatal period
- Syndrome associated with hearing loss (Pendred, Usher, Waardenburg, neurofibromatosis)
- Admission to a neonatal intensive care unit greater than 5 days
- Prematurity (< 37 weeks)
- Hyperbilirubinemia

Other reasons to consider scheduling a hearing test:

- Parent/caregiver concern regarding hearing
- Delays in speech/language development
- Recurrent middle ear infections or one episode lasting \leq 3 months
- Head trauma associated with loss of consciousness or skull fracture
- Bacterial meningitis and other infections (mumps, encephalitis, viral labyrinthitis)
- Exposure to potentially damaging noise levels
- Ototoxic medications received at any time

