**Hearing Testing for Infants**

**FIRST STEPS**

Your baby will be referred to a pediatric hearing specialist (audiologist) for diagnostic testing. Set up the appointment for the hearing testing right away, if your hospital has not scheduled it already.

Call 2-1-1 before your baby’s hearing appointment if you have financial needs or concerns.

Your hospital or Idaho Sound Beginnings can provide you with a list of pediatric audiologists in your area.

**Important things to know about infant hearing and testing -**

There are different ‘kinds’ of hearing loss. Many babies with hearing loss can hear loud sounds and will respond to bells and tapping and even loud voices.

Only diagnostic testing can confirm if your baby can hear ALL sounds, especially the sounds of speech and language.

Testing babies’ hearing requires different skills and equipment than testing adult’s hearing.

National Guidelines for Infant Hearing recommend that diagnostic hearing tests be done before the baby is *3 months old.*

**How is testing done?**

A complete hearing evaluation should be done by a pediatric audiologist. The tests are painless and are best done while your baby is asleep.

Testing should always include——

**Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)** testing - using several different test stimuli with a variety of intensities.

Other tests may be done including:

- **Otoacoustic Emissions testing (OAE)**
- **Immittance testing**

Using this variety of tests provides the audiologist with information on the responses of both the inner ear and nerves to soft sounds, as well as the functioning of baby’s middle ear.

If you have questions or concerns about your baby’s hearing, hearing test, or payment for testing, please call:

**Idaho Sound Beginnings**

www.babyhearing.idaho.gov

(208) 334-0829 or (208) 334-0983

For financial help call:
The Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1

**For more information:**

www.babyhearing.org  www.idahochdhl.org

My Audiologist (aw-dee-AH-luh-jist) is a specialist in infant hearing. Rydar A.

**Infant Milestones**

Follow your baby’s development, even if he/she passed the hearing testing. Some babies develop hearing loss later in childhood.

**Hearing Milestones**

- **0** - Startles to sounds
- **3** - Calmed by mother’s voice
- **6** - Turns head towards your voice
- **9** - Turns eyes and head to find your voice
- **12** - Babbles a variety of sounds
- **18** - Enjoys sound-making toys
- **21** - Reacts to hearing his name
- **24** - Understands easy words like "no" and "bye-bye"
- **36** - Says "da-da" or "ma-ma"
- **48** - Repeats simple words and sounds
- **60** - Uses two to three words other than "ma-ma" or "da-da"
- **72** - Gives toys on request
- **100** - Uses seven or more true words
- **108** - Follows simple spoken directions
- **120** - Can ask for several things by name
- **156** - Vocabulary of 20+ words
- **180** - Speaks in two-word phrases

**For financial help call:**

The Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1

**Thanks to our contributing partners:**

- [Idaho Department of Health and Welfare](https://www.idaho.gov)
- [NCHAM](https://www.ncham.org)
- [Els Rehabilitation Hospital](https://www.elsrehab.com)
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Idaho Sound Beginnings
Idaho Infant Toddler Program

**Hearing Milestones**

Follow your baby’s development, even if he/she passed the hearing testing. Some babies develop hearing loss later in childhood.

**0 Months**

- Startles to sounds
- Calmed by mother’s voice

**3 Months**

- Turns head towards your voice
- Turns eyes and head to find your voice
- Babbles a variety of sounds
- Enjoys sound-making toys

**6 Months**

- Reacts to hearing his name
- Understands easy words like “no” and “bye-bye”
- Says “da-da” or “ma-ma”

**9 Months**

- Repeats simple words and sounds
- Use two to three words other than “ma-ma” or “da-da”
- Gives toys on request

**12 Months**

- Uses seven or more true words
- Speaks in two-word phrases
- Vocabulary of 20+ words
- Speaks in two-word phrases

**18 Months**

- Speaks in sentences

**24 Months**

- Speaks in complete sentences

**36 Months**

- Speaks in complex sentences

**48 Months**

- Speaks in paragraphs