

Can Your Baby Hear?



North Carolina Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Baby's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Results of Hearing Screening:

Your Baby Did Not Pass

Follow-up Appt:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

INITIAL SCREEN

What if my baby does not pass the initial hearing screening?

There can be a number of reasons that your baby might not pass the first hearing screening---ear infections, fluid in the ear, a crying or active baby that prevents the test from being completed accurately, or the presence of hearing loss. If your baby does not pass, it means that your baby should have a rescreen within a month. Many babies will be found to have normal hearing on a second screening.

Next Steps

If your child did not pass the initial hearing screen, an appointment for a rescreen is the next step and the person completing the first screen will help you set a follow-up appointment. If an appointment for a rescreen was not set before you left the initial screening or you need assistance in rescheduling an appointment, please call 1-800-737-3028.

RESCREEN

What if my baby doesn't pass the rescreening?

A baby who doesn't pass the rescreening in both ears should be referred to an audiologist who can do an in-depth test to determine if a hearing loss is present. Some babies will show that they have normal hearing on this diagnostic test. If a hearing loss is present, the test can usually tell what type and how much hearing loss there is. Again, for those few babies who do have a problem, this early identification can be extremely helpful. The earlier a hearing problem is found, the better we can help the baby develop the speech, language, cognitive and social skills that they need.



Next Steps

If your child did not pass the rescreen, an appointment for a complete diagnostic audiological evaluation is indicated. The person doing the rescreen can help you set up that appointment. You have several options, depending on the resources in your area--private audiologist, Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, or the regional Developmental Evaluation Center. Sometimes insurance companies, especially HMO's, require that such a referral be made by the child's primary care physician.

A copy of the results of the rescreen will be sent to the child's primary care provider and to the Division of Public Health Child Health Audiology Consultant for the baby's county of residence.

If an appointment for a rescreen was not set before you left the initial screening or you need assistance in rescheduling an appointment, please call 1-800-737-3028.



Why is it important to confirm hearing loss early?

For every 1,000 births, two to three infants will have some degree of permanent hearing loss. Until recently, those infants were not diagnosed until two to three years of age and usually in response to the concerns of a parent when the child did not develop speech and language. Even though a baby's first words are not spoken until he/she is 10-15 months old, the foundation of speech and language begins at birth when a baby hears sounds and speech patterns.

Studies have shown that early identification, fitting of amplification and enrollment in early intervention programs before six months of age can be extremely important. The sooner a hearing problem is found, the sooner your baby can get the help he/she needs to develop normal speech and language skills.

1 - 3 - 6 For Newborn Hearing

- ◆ Screening by one month of age.
- ◆ Diagnosis by three months of age.
- ◆ Amplification selection and early intervention by six months of age.

Newborn Hearing Screening Program
Division of Public Health
1928 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1928
Phone: 919-715-3192
Fax: 919-733-2997
Email: Marshall.Tyson@ncmail.net
Web: www.ncnewbornhearing.org



Division of Public Health
NC Department of Health and Human Services