When should I have my baby's hearing screened?
Your baby should have a hearing screening before leaving the hospital or within the first month of life. If hearing loss is suspected, make sure a pediatric audiologist (hearing expert) tests your baby's hearing. If hearing loss is early identified, there is much that can be done.

Where can my baby's hearing be screened?
All Idaho birthing hospitals have the equipment to perform the hearing screening before your baby leaves the hospital. If your baby is not born in a hospital, you should call the Idaho Careline at 2-1-1 to learn where your baby can have a hearing screening.

Why should my baby's hearing be screened?
If your baby can't hear well, he/she may have problems learning to talk and communicate.

Your baby's first year of life is critical to the development of speech and language. Research shows that identifying hearing loss and doing something about it early makes a positive difference in the development of language, communication skills, thinking, reading, and social-emotional development. Maximizing your baby's potential is the desired goal.

Hearing Loss is the most common birth disorder in newborns. It affects how your baby perceives sounds and is able to communicate with you and the world.
Most babies with hearing loss are born to hearing parents.

Although I am a pediatric nurse, I knew nothing about hearing loss in newborns. Because of my healthy pregnancy, I was stunned when my baby was diagnosed with hearing loss before he was one-month old. He was able to receive special services right away and is developing wonderfully. I am grateful for Ryder’s progress and delighted that in addition to my hugs and smiles, he hasn’t missed a moment of communicating with us and learning language.

Andrea A., mom and R.N., Boise, ID

Idaho Sound Beginnings
Idaho Infant Toddler Program

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

This brochure was supported in part by project H61 MC 00010 from the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration, DHHS.
**Hearing Milestones**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONTHS</th>
<th>MILESTONES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 0-3    | Startles to sounds  
Calmed by mother's voice  
Turns head towards your voice |
| 3-6    | Turns eyes and head to find your voice  
Babbles a variety of sounds  
Enjoys sound-making toys |
| 6-9    | Reacts to hearing his name  
Understands easy words like "no" and "bye-bye"  
Says "da-da" or "ma-ma" |
| 9-12   | Repeats simple words and sounds  
Use two to three words other than "ma-ma" or "da-da"  
Gives toys on request |
| 12-18  | Uses seven or more true words  
Follows simple spoken directions  
Can ask for several things by name |
| 18-21  | Vocabulary of 20+ words  
Speaks in two-word phrases |

**Questions or concerns about your baby's hearing or hearing test?**

Contact the Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1 or visit www.babyhearing.idaho.gov  
334-0829 or (208) 334-0983

---

**Hearing**

Will my baby's hearing be tested?

Two different screening tools will be used to screen your infant's hearing. Both are safe and painless and screening takes place while your child is sleeping. Occasionally, screening can't be completed before discharge, and a baby will need a follow-up screening. If your baby does not pass the hearing screening, they should have a complete evaluation by a pediatric audiologist to find out if there is a hearing loss. Hearing loss is invisible. Only audiological tests can identify loss.

- **0-3 months:**
  - Startles to sounds
  - Calmed by mother's voice
  - Turned head towards your voice

- **3-6 months:**
  - Turns eyes and head to find your voice
  - Babbles a variety of sounds
  - Enjoys sound-making toys

- **6-9 months:**
  - Reacts to hearing his name
  - Understands easy words like "no" and "bye-bye"
  - Says "da-da" or "ma-ma"

- **9-12 months:**
  - Repeats simple words and sounds
  - Uses two to three words other than "ma-ma" or "da-da"
  - Gives toys on request

- **12-18 months:**
  - Uses seven or more true words
  - Follows simple spoken directions
  - Can ask for several things by name

- **18-21 months:**
  - Vocabulary of 20+ words
  - Speaks in two-word phrases
The Idaho Infant Toddler Program provides hearing screening for babies who are not born in a hospital.

**Call 2-1-1 for information**

**Idaho Sound Beginnings**
(208) 334-0829
(208) 334-0983

**Where can I learn more about infant hearing loss and hearing screening?**
www.babyhearing.org
www.hearandnow.org
www.babyhearing.idaho.gov