

## Common Questions After Failing a Hospital Hearing Screening

### 1. Will hearing loss impact my baby's development?

Hearing loss affects language development that begins at birth. Language development is critical for developing communication (spoken and/or visual) which is important for success in education and in life.

### 2. Isn't it just fluid?

The likelihood is small. It is important to follow up with your appointment for rescreening.

### 3. Can ear infections cause changes in hearing levels?

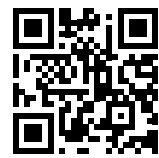
While ear infections alone do not cause hearing loss, the fluid that is often present with an ear infection and remaining after treatment can cause temporary changes in hearing levels affecting the ability to hear and possibly delaying language development. It is important to follow through with doctor and audiology appointments until both are resolved.

## For More Info



### BabyNet

1-866-512-8881  
[msp.scdhhs.gov/babynet](http://msp.scdhhs.gov/babynet)



### Beginnings SC

803-216-1171 • VP 803-929-7785  
[beginningssc.org](http://beginningssc.org) • [info@beginningssc.org](mailto:info@beginningssc.org)



### DPH First Sound Program

803-898-0708  
[carrotp@dph.sc.gov](mailto:carrotp@dph.sc.gov)



### SCSDB Statewide Early Intervention Services

800-984-4357 • 803-896-9710  
[info@scsdb.org](mailto:info@scsdb.org)

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# COMMUNICATION BEGINS AT BIRTH



SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Healthy Connections  
BABYNET



SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH



Division of  
Outreach  
Services

## Common Questions (Continued)

### 4. Should you “wait and see“ if the baby grows out of it?

No, 90% of what children learn is from conversations in their natural environments. The most important time for learning language is in the first two years.

### 5. Why does my child need to be rescreened/evaluated by an audiologist by 3 months of age?

This is an essential time for language development and babies are more easily tested when they are less active.

### 6. Why is it important to be enrolled in Early Intervention by 6 months of age?

Specialized services provided by qualified professionals in your child’s natural environment will give you the tools to help with your child’s language development and ensure school readiness.

### 7. How will my baby communicate?

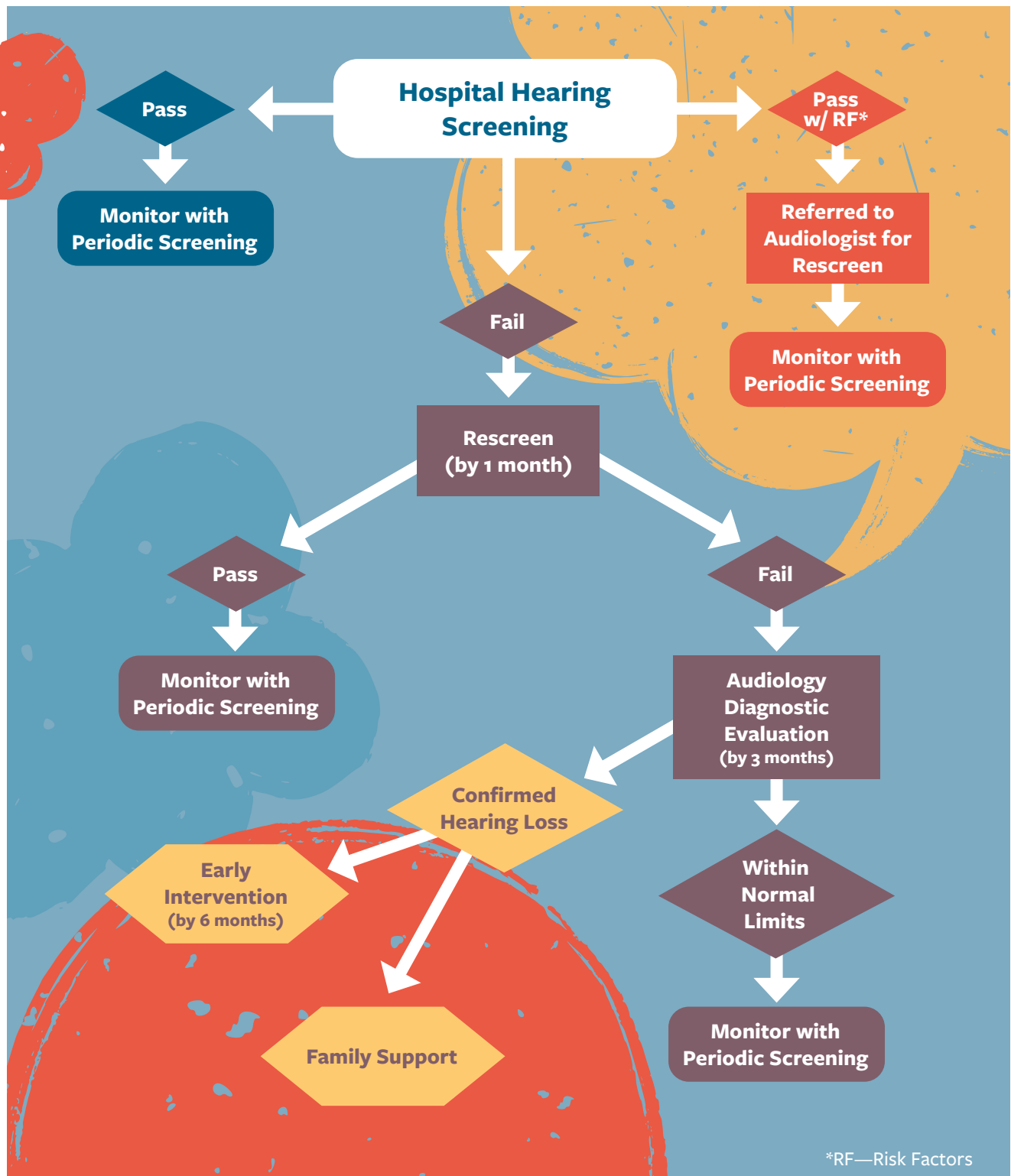
There are many communication opportunities to fit your family. Early Intervention is where it starts!

### 8. Does a baby have to be a certain age to get hearing aids?

No, hearing aids are an important step to access sound and develop spoken and visual language. If recommended, they should be fitted shortly after diagnosis.

### 9. If my baby is rescreened and passes, does that mean they are fine forever?

No, changes in hearing can happen at any time. All children should be screened periodically throughout childhood.



\*RF—Risk Factors