

Newborn Hearing Screening

Before leaving the hospital a quick and painless test is performed to test your newborn baby's hearing. Newborn hearing screenings are important for finding hearing loss early. If you are not sure about the results of this screening, ask your doctor.

What happens if my baby doesn't pass the hospital hearing screening?

Not all babies will pass the hearing screening before leaving the hospital. If your baby does not pass the hospital hearing screening, you will be referred for a rescreen in 2–4 weeks. If your baby does not pass the rescreen, you will be referred to a pediatric audiologist for a diagnostic hearing test.

It is very important to follow up with the diagnostic hearing test.

The diagnostic hearing test is safe for your baby. Tiny earphones are placed in your baby's ears, and the test measures your child's response to sound while they sleep.

Diagnostic hearing testing will tell you

- if your baby has hearing loss;
- how much hearing loss they have; and
- what to do next.

Why is newborn hearing screening important?

- Hearing loss is invisible.
- 2–3 per 1,000 babies will have hearing loss at birth.
- Untreated hearing loss can cause speech and language delays.
- Early access to sound through hearing aids and other technology will help reduce speech and language delays.

Children with hearing loss that is not treated may

- have difficulty learning to listen and speak;
- have trouble learning to read; and
- have difficulty in school.

Continue to pay attention to how well your child reacts to sounds. **Some babies develop hearing loss later—as they get older.** Keep track of your child's speech and language development. Ask your doctor to order a diagnostic hearing test if you have any concerns.

The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing (www.jcih.org) recommends that all infants receive a hearing screening no later than one month of age. Ideally, newborns that fail their hearing screening undergo an audiological evaluation to confirm hearing status no later than three months of age. Following this schedule allows professionals to make speedy referrals to early intervention for babies with hearing loss. To find a provider in your area visit www.ehdi-pals.org.

[Find a certified audiologist on ASHA ProFind online directory.](#)



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Notes:

For more information and to view the entire Audiology Information Series library, visit www.asha.org/aud/pei/.

For more information about balance problems, preventing falls, hearing loss, hearing aids, or referral to an ASHA-certified audiologist, contact:



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