

## Your Baby's Hearing Checklist

*Birth to  
3 months*

- Blinks or jerks to loud noises.
- Quiets and watches parents face when talked to.
- Coos and gurgles.

*3 months  
to  
6 months*

- Looks to see where sounds come from.
- Likes rattles, noise-making toys.
- Smiles and babbles when talked to.

*6 months  
to  
9 months*

- Turns and looks at you when you talk.
- Looks at right person when words "Mommy" and "Daddy" are said.
- Uses sound (not crying) to get your attention.
- Makes sounds like: da, ba, and ma.

*9 months  
to  
12 months*

- Knows names of favorite toys and can point to them when asked.
- Follows directions: (open your mouth, give me the ball).
- "Dances" and makes sounds to music.
- Makes "b," "d," "g," "m," and "n" sounds when "talking."
- Jabbers when being talked to, changing loudness of voice.

*12 months  
to  
18 months*

- Points to body parts when asked.
- Brings objects to you when asked.
- Hears sounds coming from another room.
- Imitates new sounds and words.
- Says 10-20 words.

*18 months  
to  
24 months*

- Understands simple phrases like: "in the cup" and "under the table."
- Likes to be read to and points to pictures when asked.
- Says own first name.
- Says two word sentences: "my shoes," "go bye-bye," "more juice."

*Call the Toll-Free Hearing Helpline if  
you have a question.*

**VOICE: 1-800-633-1316**  
**TTY: 1-866-635-4410 (toll free)**



## *Why does my baby need a hearing screening?*

When newborns have hearing loss and are diagnosed early, effective intervention is available to help them meet their milestones with normal speech, language and development.

- Approximately 3-6 of every 1000 newborns have significant hearing problems.
- More than 95% of newborns born deaf have parents with normal hearing.
- Most newborns with hearing loss have no signs or symptoms.



Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Donna Gugel, Acting Director  
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration

Donna X. Harris, Director  
Office for Genetics and People with Special Health  
Care Needs

Tanya D. Green, M.S., CCC-A, Program Chief  
Infant Hearing Program

### *How is my baby tested?*

There are two types of equipment that may be used to screen your baby's hearing. One is called an **otoacoustic emissions (OAE)** test, which measures the response of the ear to sounds transmitted by a small probe inserted into your baby's ear. The other is called an **auditory brainstem response (ABR)** test, which measures the response of the brainstem to clicking sounds transmitted by a small earphone inserted into your baby's ear. Both tests are completely painless and can be done while your baby is asleep



### *Why do some babies need another hearing screen?*

There are several reasons why a baby may need another hearing screen. If your baby did not pass the first hearing screen, it is important that an appointment be made as soon as possible to determine your baby's hearing status.

### *Can my baby pass the hearing test and still have hearing loss?*

The test performed at the hospital is only a screen. Some babies with normal hearing at birth may develop hearing loss later due to a number of factors. Some of the risk factors for later onset hearing loss include family history of hearing loss, illness, injury, and certain medications. Use the hearing checklist as a guide for normal hearing, speech, and language development. If you have any concerns your baby should have his/her hearing tested by an audiologist.