

Helpful Hints When Your Baby Needs Another Hearing Screening

There are several reasons why a baby may not pass the initial hearing screening in the hospital. Unless your baby receives a repeat screening, permanent hearing loss can not be ruled out. Ideally, the baby should be quiet and sleeping during testing. Here are some tips to help you prepare for the appointment:

- 1) Schedule the appointment *as soon as possible*. The younger your baby, the more likely that the baby will sleep during testing so that reliable results can be obtained.
- 2) Do not schedule the appointment on the same day that your baby receives shots. If your baby is fussy, it may be more difficult for the equipment to detect the soft sounds that healthy ears emit.
- 3) Schedule the appointment during the baby's regular nap time if possible. Try to keep your baby awake before the appointment so that he/she will be more likely to sleep during testing.
- 4) If possible, wait until you arrive at the testing facility before giving your baby the next feeding. This may help your baby to sleep during the appointment. Bring a bottle, pacifier, blanket, etc. to the appointment in case your baby needs to be soothed.
- 5) If more information is needed, additional visits may be required to fully assess your baby's hearing.
- 6) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is the lead agency for the Infant Hearing Program in Maryland. This means that personnel at DHMH track the hearing status of all babies who are tested in Maryland. In order to ensure timely follow up, make sure that reports of test results are sent to DHMH and to your primary care physician.