

Here is a list of hearing, speech, and language skills a baby with normal hearing should be able to do:

Birth to three months...

- ♥ Startles to loud sounds
- ♥ Quiets to familiar voices
- ♥ Turns head to you when you speak

Three to six months of age...

- ♥ Looks for sounds with eyes
- ♥ Uses a variety of sounds: squeals, whimpers, and/or chuckles
- ♥ Enjoys rattles and toys that make sounds

Around six months of age...

- ♥ Turns head toward sound
- ♥ Begins to imitate speech sounds
- ♥ Babbles, “ma-ma”, “ga-ga”, “da-da”

Around nine months of age...

- ♥ Turns head toward soft sounds
- ♥ Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
- ♥ Imitates speech sounds of others

Around twelve months of age...

- ♥ Correctly uses “ma-ma” or “da-da”

If you have questions about your baby’s hearing or speech development, please talk with your baby’s health professional.

Your Baby’s First Hearing Test



This publication may be provided in alternative formats such as Braille, large print and audiotape by contacting the office listed:

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

Division of Community and Public Health
PO Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102
800-877-6246
Missouri Relay 800-735-2466
<http://www.dhss.mo.gov/NewbornHearing>

For information regarding other maternal and child health care services call:
800-TEL-LINK (800-835-5465)

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Newborn Hearing Screening Program

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

Why should my infant's hearing be screened?

- Hearing loss is one of the most common conditions present at birth. In Missouri, all babies are screened for possible hearing loss.
- Babies cannot tell us if they cannot hear. Screening is the only way to know if a baby has a hearing loss.
- It is important to diagnose hearing problems early. The first two years of a baby's life are the most important for learning speech and language. If your baby has a hearing loss, many important learning experiences will be missed.

When is the hearing screening done?

Hearing screenings are performed in the hospital just hours after your baby is born.

How is the screening done?

A newborn's hearing can be screened on special equipment using one of two quick methods:

OAE: Otoacoustic Emissions is done by placing tiny microphones in your baby's outer ear canal and recording the middle ear response to clicks or tone bursts.

ABR: Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response is done by placing electrodes on your baby's scalp and measuring brain waves generated in response to clicks.

What should I know about the hearing screening?

- Screening is safe, painless, and can be done in about 10 minutes.
- Most babies sleep through the screening.
- You will get screening results before you leave the hospital.
- The results will either be "pass" or "refer."

Be sure to tell the hospital the name of your baby's health professional or clinic so the results can be sent to them.



Why do some babies need another hearing screening ("refer")?

- Some babies may need another screening because:
 - Fluid is in the ear
 - The baby was moving a lot
 - The testing room was noisy
 - The baby has a hearing loss
- If your baby does not pass the hearing screening, make sure his or her hearing is screened again or tested by an audiologist as soon as possible.
- Most babies who need another screening have normal hearing. Some will have hearing loss.

Can a newborn baby pass the hearing screening and still have hearing loss?

- Yes, some babies hear well enough to pass the first test, but lose their hearing later because of:
 - Some illnesses
 - Some injuries
 - Some medicines
 - A family history of childhood hearing loss
- Use the list of normal hearing development skills on the back cover as a guide. Infants and children with concerns may be eligible for services.