



Failure to pass the first hearing screening may indicate hearing loss in your baby, and another test is necessary to determine whether your baby is able to hear.

#### **Why is it important to have another hearing test as soon as possible?**

- The earlier a hearing loss is found, the better it is for your baby.
- If your baby does have a hearing loss, there are many things that can be done to support your baby.
- Testing is the only way to know for sure whether or not your baby has a hearing loss.

#### **Why did my baby fail to pass the first hearing test?**

- Your baby may have a hearing loss.
- There may be fluid in the ear.
- The testing room may have been noisy.
- Your baby may have been moving a lot.

In Missouri, between 100 – 130 newborns are diagnosed with permanent hearing loss each year. When a hearing loss is found early, parents and professionals can work together to help a child develop language and communication skills.

#### **What should I expect at the visit?**

- The test is safe and painless and may be more in-depth than the initial screening.
- You may be asked to bring your baby in while he/she is sleeping.
- You may be asked to feed your baby just before the testing.
- The tester will help you schedule a follow-up appointment if another test is needed.

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

- Yes, some babies hear just well enough to pass the first test, but lose their hearing later because of:
  - Illnesses
  - Medications
  - Injuries
  - Family history of childhood delayed-onset hearing loss
- Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows.
- If you have questions about your baby's hearing, talk to your baby's health professional.

Babies begin to develop speech and language in the first 6 months of life. If hearing loss is found early, there are many things that can be offered to support speech and language development.



Attention Hearing Screener:

If you want the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to make an appointment reminder phone call to the baby's parent, please fax the appointment card to 573-751-6185.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Baby's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother's/Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Baby's Doctor (name, address, phone)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date, Time and Place of Testing

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number of Testing Site

Additional information can be found at:

- [health.mo.gov/newbornhearingscreening](http://health.mo.gov/newbornhearingscreening)
- [cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html](http://cdc.gov/ncbddd/hearingloss/index.html)
- [infanthearing.org/](http://infanthearing.org/)



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH &  
SENIOR SERVICES**

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

PO Box 570

Jefferson City, MO 65102

800-877-6246

**[Health.Mo.Gov/newbornhearingscreening](http://Health.Mo.Gov/newbornhearingscreening)**

For information regarding other maternal and  
child health services, call or text 800-TEL-LINK (800-835-5465)

**[Health.Mo.Gov/tellink](http://Health.Mo.Gov/tellink)**

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# Your Baby Needs Another Hearing Test



Finding hearing loss early  
can make a huge difference  
in your baby's language  
development and life!