

a sound
beginning
for your baby



Newborn Hearing Screening

All newborns should be



Why Is It Important?

- A baby with hearing loss misses all or part of words spoken to him/her. This delays the baby's ability to learn to talk and to understand what others are saying.
- Fast, accurate and gentle methods are available to screen a newborn baby's hearing.
- These screenings indicate that a baby may have a hearing loss and needs follow-up testing.
- Experts say that the earlier a baby's hearing loss is discovered, the better their chance to learn and grow. There are people and programs designed to help.
- The State of Wisconsin requires that all babies are screened for hearing loss before hospital discharge, or within 30 days if the infant was not born in a hospital.

Your Baby's Results

Left Ear: Pass Refer

Right Ear: Pass Refer

screened for hearing loss.



Babies born with normal hearing sometimes develop hearing loss later on due to illness, injury or other causes. This checklist tells you what you should expect as your baby grows.

0–4 Months

Startles to loud sounds. Quiets to the sound of a familiar voice.

4–6 Months

Turns toward or looks for a familiar or new sound. Likes rattles and toys that make sound.

6–12 Months

Turns or looks up when called by name. Imitates sounds and pitches. Understands the meaning of “no” and “bye bye.” Uses voice to get attention.

12–18 Months

Uses 4-5 words by 18 months. Points to at least one body part when asked. Understands one-step commands, such as “get me your diaper” or “close the door.”

18–24 Months

Uses 10-15 words by age 2. Likes music. Points to familiar objects when you name them. Puts two words together by age 2.

24–36 Months

Uses 200 words by age 3. Listens to radio or television at the same loudness as other people. Hears when called from another room. Uses two to three word sentences. Strangers understand most of your child’s speech.

Important!

If your child cannot do these things at the age listed, check with your doctor and ask for a referral to an audiologist (hearing specialist) for a hearing evaluation.

If your baby does not pass the hearing screen, talk with your healthcare provider about what to do next. It is very important that you follow their recommendations.

To learn about services for infants and children,
contact
WISCONSIN FIRST STEP
(800) 642-STEP
www.mch-hotlines.org

Here are some loving, fun and easy ways to help your baby develop communication abilities.



Enjoy Your Baby!

- Gently hold, snuggle and cuddle with baby often. Give lots of tender touches and stroking.
- Baby loves to see your face. Look directly at him/her.
- Smile at and return baby's smiles.
- Softly talk and sing to baby as you diaper, bathe, feed him/her. Use short, simple sentences.
- Copy baby's babbling sounds. Wait for baby to "talk" back to you.
- Tell baby what you're doing as you go about your day. Ask what baby is doing, and what baby sees.
- Point to and name baby's body parts and the other objects baby can see around him/her.
- Read to baby every day using bright colorful picture books. Point to and talk about the pictures.
- Read or tell simple rhymes to baby.
- Play "peek-a-boo," "pattycake" and other simple games with baby.
- Let baby have fun with music and sounds and most of all... You!

Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Program for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
Wisconsin Sound Beginnings