

# Wisconsin Newborn Screening: Three Parts for a Healthy Start Hearing Screening

## Why Is Newborn Hearing Screening Important?



Your baby's ability to learn how to talk, understand what people are saying, and bond with their family may be delayed if they cannot hear all sounds.

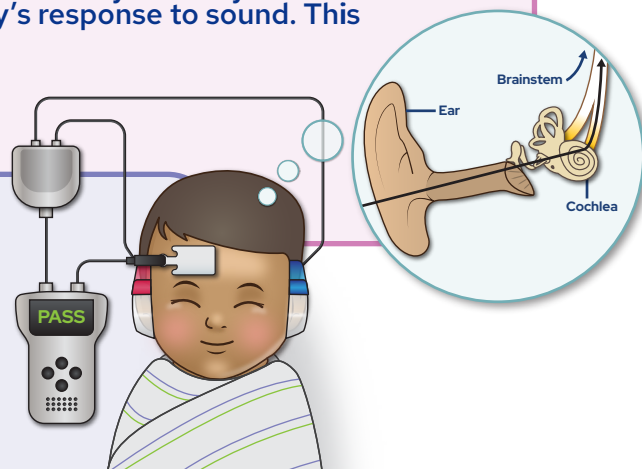
Newborn hearing screening measures your baby's hearing and can indicate a need for follow-up testing.

The earlier a baby's hearing difference is discovered, the faster a family can get connected to a range of people and programs designed to provide support.

## How does newborn hearing screening work?

While your baby is asleep, soft tones are played into your baby's ears. The equipment will accurately measure your baby's response to sound. This screening is safe and gentle.

All newborns are offered hearing screening before hospital discharge or within 30 days if they were not born in a hospital.



## What's next?

If your baby does not pass the newborn hearing screening, schedule a follow up appointment immediately for a repeat screening before following up with an audiologist.

If your baby passes their newborn hearing screening, continue to monitor their milestones on the timeline below.

## Milestones

Your baby may not have a hearing difference at birth, but they could develop a hearing difference later. This timeline tells you what to look for as your baby grows.

**0–4 Months:** ··· Your baby startles to loud sounds. Quiets to the sound of a familiar voice.

**4–6 Months:** ··· Your baby turns toward or looks for familiar or new sound. Likes rattles and toys that make sound.

**6–12 Month:** ... Your baby 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:** ·· Your baby uses four to five 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."

**24–36 Months:** . Your baby 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.

**Note:** If your child does not meet this timeline, ask your baby's doctor for a referral to an audiologist (hearing specialist) for a special hearing test.

## Here are some loving, fun, and easy ways to help your baby develop communication:

- Give lots of tender touches and stroking. Gently hold, snuggle, and cuddle with baby often.
- Look directly at your baby. Baby loves to see your face.
- Smile at baby. When baby smiles back at you, smile again.
- Use short, simple sentences. Softly talk and sing as you diaper, bathe, feed your baby. Use short, simple sentences.
- Copy baby's babbling sounds. Wait for baby to "talk" back to you.
- Tell baby what you are doing during the day. Ask your baby what they are doing and what they see.
- Point to and name baby's body parts and the other objects they can see.
- 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!



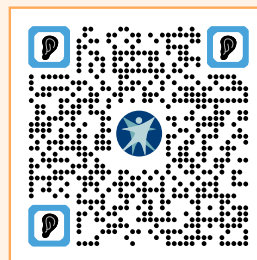
Hearing screening is one of three parts of newborn screening.

Learn more about heart and blood screening for a healthy start!

For more information about Wisconsin's Newborn Screening Program scan the QR code or use the link below!

## Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Program

### Newborn Hearing Screening



[dhs.wisconsin.gov/  
newbornscreening/hearing.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/newbornscreening/hearing.htm)