

Milestones in your baby's hearing

Use these milestones in normal hearing development to monitor your baby's hearing as he/she grows:

Birth to three months

- Is startled by or jumps when there is a sudden noise.
- Stirs, wakes up or cries when someone talks loudly or makes a noise.
- Recognises your voice and quietens when you speak.

Three to six months

- Turns eyes towards an interesting sound.
- Appears to listen to voices and other sounds.
- Awakes easily to sound.

Six to twelve months

- Turns head to soft sounds.
- Understands "no" and "bye-bye".
- Begins to copy speech sounds.

If you miss your screen, please contact your birth hospital.

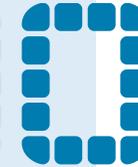
For more information about the screening program, contact:

WA Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Email: hearingscreening@health.wa.gov.au



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Your newborn baby's hearing screen



Produced by: WA Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Website: <http://cahs.health.wa.gov.au>

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alternative formats upon request

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A hearing screen is available to all newborn babies in care at this hospital. This is a free service funded by the Department of Health, Western Australia.

Why screen my baby's hearing?

- Approximately 1-2 babies in every 1,000 are born with a hearing loss in both ears (bilateral hearing loss).

Newborn screening of babies enables this problem to be identified and treated quickly.

- Early treatment helps your baby's speech, language and learning development.
- Early intervention provides parents with support and information as soon as possible.

How is the screen performed?

Your baby's hearing will be screened by Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR). Three separate leads are placed on your baby's forehead, back of the neck and behind the shoulder using adhesive pads.

A small earphone 'cup' is placed over your baby's ears. This makes a sound, and the leads measure the response from your baby's ears to that sound.

The screen doesn't hurt your baby in any way.

When is the screen done?

- Screening may be done any time after your baby is 12 hours old.
- You will be asked (usually before the birth) whether you would like your baby to have the screen.

What if my baby misses the hearing screen in hospital?

If you come home from hospital before your baby has the screen, please contact your birth hospital to make arrangements for your baby to be screened.

The results

The hearing screen measures your baby's hearing response at the time of the screen only.

The results will be discussed with you straight after the test and noted in your baby's medical notes.

- Pass result
 - Indicates that at the time of the screen your baby hears at a level that will enable him/her to develop normal speech and language skills.
- Refer result

In some babies, an irregular result may occur due to something other than deafness, such as:

- Fluid or other matter that has entered the ear canal during the birth process.
- Temporary middle ear fluid.
- Your baby being too restless.

If there is any concern about the results, a follow-up screen will be recommended.

Follow-up screen

The follow-up screen, if required, is usually done before discharge from hospital. If this is not possible, you will be offered an appointment in an outpatient clinic.

If there are any concerns about your baby's hearing after the follow-up screen, you will be referred to a paediatric audiologist. The audiologist is specially trained to test the hearing of babies and young children.

Risk factors for hearing loss

A few rare causes of hearing loss are not picked up by the standard hearing screen. With some conditions, a baby's hearing may be normal at birth but gradually worsen over time.

Children with any risk factors listed below should be tested by an audiologist.

- A strong family history of permanent hearing loss from birth or early childhood.
- Exposure to a congenital infection such as Toxoplasmosis, Rubella, Cytomegalovirus, Herpes or Syphilis.
- Syndromes associated with hearing loss such as Down syndrome.

If your baby has one of the above mentioned risk factors, please inform the person who is performing the hearing screen.