

## Some Things a Baby with Normal Hearing Should Be Able to Do:

### Birth to 3 Months of Age

- Blinks or jumps when there is a sudden, loud sound
- Quiets or smiles when spoken to
- Makes sounds like “ohh”, “ahh”

### 6 to 9 Months of Age

- Turns head toward loud sounds
- Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
- Babbles, for example “baba,” “mama,” “gaga”

### 9 to 12 Months of Age

- Repeats simple words and sounds you make
- Correctly uses “mama” or “dada”
- Responds to singing or music
- Points to favorite toys and objects when asked

*If you have questions about your baby's hearing or this list, talk with your baby's health professional.*

### Where Else Can I Get Information?

Visit [www.babyhearing.org](http://www.babyhearing.org)

Kansas Department of Health  
and Environment

### SoundBeginnings Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

1000 SW Jackson Street Suite 220

Topeka, KS 66612

Phone: 800-332-6262



## *Babies At-Risk for Hearing Loss Need Additional Hearing Tests*

*Finding hearing loss early can  
make a big difference in your  
baby's life.*

## Your Baby Needs Another Hearing Test

### My baby passed the hearing screen. Why do they need another hearing test?

Your baby has one or more risk factors that may increase their chance of developing a hearing loss as they get older. These risk factors include:

- Family history of permanent hearing loss. This means parents or siblings who have had a hearing loss since early childhood
- NICU care of more than 5 days
- Assisted ventilation for more than 5 days
- Exposure to ototoxic medications (Gentamycin, Tobramycin), loop diuretics (Furosemide/Lasix)
- Hyperbilirubinemia that requires exchange transfusion
- Exposure to infections at birth (CMV, herpes, Rubella, Syphilis, Bacterial and Viral meningitis, Toxoplasmosis)
- Birth weight below 1500 grams
- Head or facial structural problems
- Syndromes associated with hearing loss or progressive or late on-set hearing loss (Usher, Waardenburg, Alport, Pendred, Jervell and Lange-Nielson, Hunter, Friedreich ataxia, Charcot-Marie-Tooth, etc.)

Even though only a small number of babies with these risk factors will actually develop a hearing loss, it is still important to have your baby's hearing tested by an Audiologist when they are a little older.

### What is an Audiologist and when do they recommend my baby's follow-up hearing test?

An Audiologist is a hearing specialist who has skills and equipment for carrying out detailed hearing testing (diagnostic hearing tests).

They will want to test your baby's hearing between 6 and 12 months of age, depending on your baby's specific needs.

**If you are concerned about your baby's hearing before the appointment, you can contact your baby's doctor or an audiologist.**



**It is common for a baby to need more than one appointment before full results are available.**

### What if my baby has a hearing loss?

If your baby has a **temporary hearing loss** your Audiologist will want to see your baby again to confirm that the temporary hearing loss has gone away. If it does not go away, your Audiologist will recommend that your baby sees an Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist.

If your baby has a **permanent hearing loss** your Audiologist will discuss different processes and options available, plus link you with an early intervention program in your area. They will be able to help you connect with a range of different services relevant to the specific needs of your child.

### My baby seems to be responding to sound. Do they still need the diagnostic hearing tests?

Most babies who have hearing loss will hear and respond to some sounds. Therefore, picking up hearing loss is impossible without using proper testing equipment.

**Finding out your baby has hearing loss at an early age, provides the best opportunity to assist your child's speech and language development. This is important for your child's future learning, social, and emotional well-being.**