

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

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



Can Your Baby Hear?

Your baby's first hearing test

Why should my baby's hearing be tested?

- Most babies can hear well at birth, but few do not.
- We test all babies to find the ones who may not be able to hear. Testing is the only way to know if your baby has hearing loss.
- It is important to find hearing loss as soon as possible. Babies whose hearing loss is not found early will have a hard time learning.
- If we find hearing loss early, there are many ways we can help your baby.

Make sure your baby's hearing is tested before you leave the hospital.

What should I know about the test?

- The test is safe and painless and can be done in about 10 minutes.
- Most babies sleep through the test.
- You will get the test results before you leave the hospital.
- Be sure to tell the hospital the name of your baby's health professional or clinic so they can send them the results.



Why do some babies need another hearing test?

- Some babies may need another test because:
 - amniotic fluid in the ear
 - noise in the testing room
 - baby was moving a lot
 - baby has hearing loss
- Most babies who need another test have normal hearing.
- If your baby does not pass the hearing test, make she he or she is tested again as soon as possible.

Can a Newborn Pass the Hearing Test and Still Have Hearing Loss?

- Yes, some babies hear well enough to pass the first test, but lose their hearing later because of:
 - some illnesses
 - some injuries
 - some medicines
 - family history of hearing loss
- Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows.
- Use the list on the back cover as a guide.

Misconceptions vs Clinical Facts

Misconception: Parents will know if their child has a hearing loss by the time their child is 2-3 months of age.

Fact: Prior to universal screening, the average age hearing loss was identified was 2-3 years. Children with mild to moderate hearing loss were often not identified until 4 years of age

Misconception: Parents can identify hearing loss by clapping their hands or making loud sounds behind the child's head.

Fact: Children can compensate for hearing loss. They use visual cues, such as shadows or parental expressions and reactions, or they may feel the breeze caused by the motion of the hands.

Misconception: There is no rush to identify a hearing loss.

Fact: Children identified when they are older than 6 months can have speech and language delays. Children identified when they are younger than 6 months do not have delays and are equal to their hearing peers in terms of speech and language.

Misconception: Children younger than 12 months cannot be fit with hearing aids.

Fact: Children as young as 1 month of age can be fit and benefit from hearing aids.

Misconception: Tests are not reliable and cause too many infants to be referred to specialists.

Fact: Referral rates are as low as 5-7%