



Where can I get more information?

Alabama Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Bureau of Family Health Services

RSA Tower, 201 Monroe Street

Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Phone: 334-206-2944 or 334-206-5955 or 1-866-928-6755

Fax: 334-206-3063

www.adph.org

Alabama's Early Intervention System

2129 East South Boulevard

Montgomery, AL 36111

1-800-543-3098

Fax: 334-215-5035

www.rehab.state.al.us

Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Developmental Milestones in Hearing

Use this guide to see how your child is growing and learning

Birth to three months:

- Jumps or blinks to loud sounds
- Wakes up to loud sounds
- Quiets when he or she hears mom's voice

Three months to six months:

- Turns eyes or head to search for the sound source
- Responds to your voice even when you cannot be seen
- Enjoys toys that make sounds
- Starts babbling

At six months:

- Responds to his or her name
- Turns head to the direction of the sound source
- Begins to imitate speech sounds

At ten to twelve months:

- Understands and follows simple directions
- Gives a block or toy to you when asked for it without pointing
- Imitates speech sounds of others

At thirteen to eighteen months:

- Follows simple one step directions
- Uses 3-20 single words
- Points to 1-3 body parts when asked

At nineteen to twenty-four months:

- Understands approximately 300 words
- Puts two words together ("eat cookie") by 24 months of age
- Points to five body parts
- Responds to "yes" or "no" questions

Alabama's Listening!
UNIVERSAL NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING

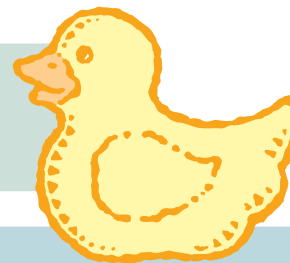
Universal Newborn Hearing Screening



Helping babies
develop language for
learning and interaction

ADPH
Alabama Department of Public Health
Bureau of Family Health Services

Hearing Loss Information for Parents



What is hearing loss?

There are two main types of hearing loss.

1. Conductive hearing loss occurs when sound cannot enter into the inner ear. This may be caused by wax buildup, fluid in the ear, or structural abnormalities. It can usually be corrected with medical or surgical intervention.
2. Sensorineural hearing loss occurs when there is damage to the inner ear. This may be caused by diseases, birth injury, toxic drugs, viruses, or genetic syndromes.

In addition, there are various degrees of hearing loss. They include mild, moderate, severe, and profound hearing loss. It is important to note that milder hearing losses or hearing losses that affect only one ear may not be apparent. Thus, it is important to follow-up even though a baby may appear to hear normally.

Why should my baby's hearing be screened?

Statistics show that between one to three newborns per 1000 have some degree of hearing loss. Although these statistics indicate that it is unlikely that your baby will have a hearing loss, if there is one, it is important that you know about it as soon as possible. The first two years of your baby's life are critical for learning speech and language. Because a hearing loss could affect your baby's speech and language development, it is important to diagnose hearing problems early.

How will my baby's screening test be performed?

There are two types of screening methods that may be used. Both tests are very safe, take only minutes to perform, and are non-invasive. Most babies sleep through the hearing screening.

1. Auditory Brainstem Response testing (ABR) determines the infant's ability to hear soft sounds through miniature earphones. Electrodes measure your baby's brain-wave to determine if the sounds are heard normally.
2. Otoacoustic emissions (OAE) are measured directly with a miniature microphone and sent to a special computer to determine your baby's hearing status.

What if my baby does not pass the hearing screening?

If your baby does not pass the first screening an attempt may be made to repeat the screening before your baby goes home, or you may be contacted to schedule a second test after going home. Different types of hearing tests will be recommended if your baby does not pass the second screening. Because Early Intervention is critical to the development of infants with hearing loss, it is important that the testing not be delayed. It is recommended that all testing be completed by 3 months of age and that infants with hearing loss be enrolled in appropriate intervention services as early as possible, but not later than 6 months of age. Your audiologist and/or physician can provide you with information on early intervention programs in your area, or you may call the toll-free early Intervention Child Find number, **(1-800-543-3098)**.

If my baby passes the hearing screening, do I need to retest later?

The results of the hearing screening show how your baby is hearing at the time of the test. Some children with recurrent ear infections, other serious infections, chronic illness or family history of hearing loss may develop hearing loss later in life. If you have concerns about your child's hearing ability or speech and language development, you can have your child's hearing tested at any age.

In addition, a very small percentage of babies who have hearing problems will pass the screening. The Developmental Milestones in Hearing describes normal development for speech and hearing. If you have concerns about your baby's hearing, speech or language development, you should contact your baby's doctor or an audiologist.

Does my baby need to be screened if he/she did not pass the initial hearing test but still responds to sound?

Yes. Although your baby may respond to noise it is still very important for your baby to receive further testing. There are various types and degrees of hearing loss, and although your baby may respond to sound it may be muffled or distorted. Thus, it is important to seek further testing even though your baby may appear to hear normally.