

# Newborn Hearing Screening

Good hearing is important for a baby's learning and speech development. For this reason, state law requires that every baby have a hearing screening soon after birth. At Intermountain, we check each newborn's hearing before they go home with their families.

## Why is screening important?

Most babies don't have hearing loss. But if your baby does have a hearing problem, it's important to catch it early. Your baby is constantly learning during the first months and years of life. If you learn now that your baby has hearing loss, your baby can get early treatment. This will give your baby the best chance to develop normal language, social, and learning skills.

## How is the screening test done?

Two tests are commonly used to screen for hearing problems in babies, the **otoacoustic emissions (OAE) test** and the **auditory brainstem response (ABR) test**. Your baby may have one or both of these tests.

During these tests, a trained staff person places a small device at the opening of your baby's ears, one at a time. The device sends sounds into the ear and measures the response. The response measured depends on the type of test used.

Both screening tests are painless and take 15 to 45 minutes. Many babies sleep through hearing screening.

## Can hearing change over time?

Yes, hearing can change over time. In fact, some babies who pass the newborn screening may have hearing problems later. Babies who were born early (premature) have a higher risk for hearing loss as well as those who have:

- A family history of hearing loss
- Certain infections or conditions
- Are given medicines that can damage hearing

Babies with these or other risk factors may need additional hearing checks in the months and years to come.

## Your Baby's Hearing Test Results

Baby's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Screening test date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tests done:

- OAE test  
 ABR test

### RESULTS:

- Your baby passed the screening test in both ears.** Continue to check your baby's hearing on a regular basis. Use the checklist on the back of this page as a guide.
- Your baby passed the test but is at high risk for hearing problems.** Because hearing can change over time, your baby should have a follow-up test at \_\_\_\_ months old. Call to schedule a second test with a pediatric audiologist at one of the hospitals listed on the back of this page.\*
- Your baby failed the screening test and needs to be seen again for a second screening test.** Call the number of your testing hospital (see the back of this page) to schedule a second appointment.

### Your baby's next appointment is on:

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place:** \_\_\_\_\_

To get the best results, try to keep your baby calm, quiet, or asleep during this test.

## Check your baby's hearing

Hearing can change over time, so it's a good idea to check your baby's hearing now and then. Use the checklist below as a guide. If your baby's actions don't seem to fit these stages, talk to your baby's doctor.

### Birth to 3 Months

- Reacts to loud sounds. Awakened by loud voices and sounds.
- Is calmed by your voice. Seems to know your voice.
- Smiles when spoken to.

### 3 to 6 Months

- Turns head to you when you speak.
- Responds to "no" and changes in tone of voice.
- Imitates his / her own voice.
- Begins to repeat sounds (such as ooh, aah, and ba-ba).

### 6 to 10 Months

- Looks upward or turns toward a new sound.
- Responds to his or her own name.
- Knows words for common objects and sayings ("bye-bye"). Looks at things or pictures when someone talks about them.
- Makes babbling sounds, even when alone.

### 10 to 15 Months

- Points to or looks at familiar objects or people when prompted.
- Imitates simple words and sounds. May use a few words.
- Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake.

## Where do I go for infant hearing screening tests?

*\* If your baby is high risk, schedule a test with a pediatric audiologist at one of these hospitals.*

**Alta View Hospital** - (801) 501-4576

**American Fork Hospital** - (801) 492-2450

**Bear River Hospital** - (435) 207-4681

**Cassia Regional Hospital** - (208) 677-6500

**Cedar City Hospital** - (435) 868-5150

**Delta Community Hospital** - (435) 864-1523

**Fillmore Community Hospital** - (435) 743-5591

**Garfield Community Hospital** - (435) 676-8811

**Heber Valley Hospital** - (435) 657-4450

**Intermountain Medical Center** - (801) 507-7248

**LDS Hospital** - (801) 408-5605

**\*Logan Regional Hospital** - (435) 716-5376

**\*McKay-Dee Hospital** - (801) 387-4136

**Orem Community Hospital** - (801) 357-7448

**Park City Hospital** - (435) 658-7264

**\*Primary Children's Hospital** - (801) 662-3277

**Riverton Hospital** - (801) 285-2328

**Sanpete Valley Hospital** - (435) 462-4147

**Sevier Valley Hospital** - (435) 893-0396

**St. George Regional Hospital** - (435) 251-4300

**\*Utah Valley Hospital** - (801) 357-7448

## Questions for my doctor

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