

The Colorado Newborn Hearing Screening Program

The Colorado Newborn Hearing Screening Program is sponsored by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment /Health Care Program for Children with Special Needs (303-692-2370 or 800-886-7689, ext. 2397). Results will be reported to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment so that your baby can receive any additional services needed.



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Children with Special Health Care Needs • PSD-HCP-A4
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado 80246-1530



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March
of Dimes



It Is Important To Have Your Baby's Hearing Checked

As many as 200 babies are born in Colorado every year with hearing loss. Your baby can not tell you if he or she can't hear... your voice, a soft song or a nursery rhyme. Babies who do not hear may have problems learning to talk.

It is important to have your baby's hearing tested before leaving the hospital. We need to identify hearing problems as early as possible and take actions to make sure your baby has the best chance to develop normally.



Babies Can't Tell Us If They Can't Hear

Why Should My Baby's Hearing Be Screened?

One out of every 200 babies has a significant hearing loss at birth. More than half of babies born with hearing problems are otherwise healthy and have no family history of hearing loss. Therefore, to be sure we identify every baby with hearing loss, hospitals in Colorado are required to either screen babies for hearing loss or to provide information to parents on where to obtain an infant hearing screening.

Of course it is unlikely that your baby will have a hearing loss. However, it is important for you to be sure that your baby has normal hearing. The first year of life is critical to the development of normal language and speech.

How Will My Baby's Screening Test Be Done?

There are two types of hearing screening tests that may be used with your baby. Auditory Brainstem

Response Testing (ABR) tests the infant's ability to hear soft sounds through miniature earphones. Sensors measure your baby's brainwaves to determine if the sounds are heard normally. Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) are measured directly with a miniature microphone and sent to a special computer to determine your baby's hearing status. Both tests are very safe and take only minutes to evaluate each ear. Most babies sleep through the hearing screening tests.

What If My Baby Does Not Pass The Test?

There are many reasons your baby may not "pass" the first hearing test and require a second evaluation. Perhaps your baby was too active, too wide-awake, or you were discharged before the procedure was completed.

It is important that you follow through with any recommendations made by your hospital staff, audiologist and/or physician.

If My Baby Passes The Screening, Do I Need To Have The Hearing Checked Again?

The hearing screening test can usually confirm that your baby has normal hearing at the time of the procedure. However, hearing loss can develop later after you leave the hospital for a variety of reasons. If you have a family history of hearing loss, your baby should be tested every year. Ear infections that occur as your child grows can also cause hearing loss.

If you ever have concerns about your child's hearing, speech or language, be sure to discuss this with your audiologist and/or physician.

Speech, Language and Hearing Skills

Here is a list of some things a child with normal hearing should be able to do.

Around Two Months of Age

- ♥ Startles to loud sound
- ♥ Quiets to familiar voices
- ♥ Makes vowel sounds like "ohh", "ahh"

Around Four Months of Age

- ♥ Looks for sounds with eyes
- ♥ Starts babbling
- ♥ Uses a variety of voice sounds, such as squeals, whimpers, chuckles

Around Six Months of Age

- ♥ Turns head toward sound
- ♥ Begins to imitate speech sounds
- ♥ Babbles ("ba-ba," "ma-ma," "ga-ga")

Around Nine Months of Age

- ♥ Imitates speech sounds of others
- ♥ Understands "no-no" or "bye-bye"
- ♥ Turns head toward soft sounds

Around 12 Months of Age

- ♥ Correctly uses "ma-ma" or "da-da"
- ♥ Gives toy when asked for
- ♥ Responds to singing or music
- ♥ Locates sound on all levels



Your Baby's Hearing Can Be Easily Tested At Any Age!