

Use this milestones chart to help you check your baby's hearing, speech and language development.

By **2 months** of age a baby with normal hearing should be able to:

- Quiet when hearing a familiar voice
- Make sounds like ahh and ohh

By **4 months** of age a baby with normal hearing should be able to:

- Look for sounds with his eyes
- Make sounds like squeals, whimpers or laughs

By **6 months** of age a baby with normal hearing should be able to:

- Turn his head toward a sound
- Make sounds like ba-ba, ma-ma, da-da

By **9 months** of age a baby with normal hearing should be able to:

- Imitate speech sounds made by others
- Understand no-no or bye-bye
- Turn his head toward a soft sound

By **12 months** of age a baby with normal hearing should be able to:

- Correctly use ma-ma or da-da
- Respond to singing or music

A baby with **mild or unilateral (in one ear) hearing loss** may also be able to do these things



For more information about newborn hearing screening:

www.babyhearing.org

www.hearandnow.org

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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH

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Newborn Hearing Screening



What you
need to know
before you have
your baby

Many babies with hearing loss will react to loud sounds. The only way to know if your baby's hearing is normal is to have the screening done with special equipment.

Before you leave the hospital, **be sure you know the results of your baby's hearing screening.** If your baby did not pass, he/she should be rescreened **before 14 days of age.**



What can my baby hear during pregnancy?

- By 7 weeks gestation your baby's ear structures are beginning to develop.
- By 25 weeks gestation your baby will begin to hear and respond to sounds.
- Your speech is one of the predominant uterine sounds that your baby hears. He/she is already learning language in the womb!
- Newborns prefer their mother's voice to that of another female.

Facts about newborn hearing screening

Hearing loss is invisible

Most babies with hearing loss have no signs or symptoms. Infants with hearing loss cry and make other sounds just like babies with normal hearing. The first three years are the most important for learning language and how to communicate.

Hearing loss is a very common birth defect

About 3 in every 1000 babies are born with a permanent hearing loss. Your baby needs normal hearing to develop normal speech and language.

How is a hearing screening done?

Your baby will be screened for hearing loss in the hospital soon after birth. The screening takes 10 - 15 minutes while the baby is quiet or asleep. The screening is done with special equipment that is safe and does not hurt.

If your baby does not pass their screening, the hospital will need to notify your pediatrician.

It is important to have your pediatrician chosen BEFORE you have your baby.

Is my baby at risk for hearing loss?

If your baby has **one or more** of the following risk factors or conditions at birth, your baby may be at increased risk for hearing loss:

- Stayed in the NICU for more than 5 days
- Had an infection before or after birth such as Cytomegalovirus (CMV), herpes, rubella or meningitis
- Has a family member with hearing loss from birth or childhood

Babies at risk can pass a hearing screening at birth but will need more testing later. Talk with your baby's doctor and make an appointment with a pediatric audiologist for further testing.

90—95% of children born with permanent hearing loss have normal hearing parents

CMV AND HEARING LOSS

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is a common virus that infects people of all ages; however, when it occurs during pregnancy, the baby can become infected potentially causing damage to the brain, eyes and/or inner ears.

For more information go to:

www.health.utah.gov/cshcn/chss/cm.v.html