



**Family and Community
Health Bureau
Newborn Screening Program
406-444-6858**

LANGUAGE AND HEARING DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES



Birth - 3 Months

- Startled by loud noises
- Soothed by familiar voices
- Makes vowel sounds— ooh, ahh
- Squeals, coos, laughs, gurgles

3 - 6 Months

- Makes a variety of sounds such as “ba-ba,” “gaba,” “ma”
- Seems to enjoy babbling
- Uses a variety of pitches
- Likes sound-making toys
- Turns eyes and head to sounds, including your voice



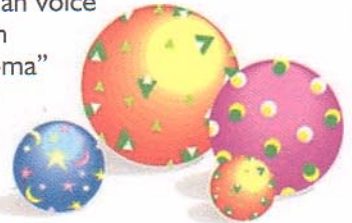
6 - 9 Months

- Responds to her or his own name
- Imitates speech by making non-speech sounds: coughing, clicking tongue, smacking lips
- Plays with sound through repetition: “la-la-la”
- Understands “no” and “bye-bye”
- Says “da-da” or “ma-ma”
- Listens to music or singing



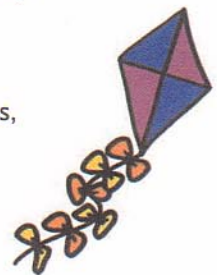
9 - 12 Months

- Responds differently to happy or angry talking
- Turns head toward loud or soft sounds
- Jabbers in response to human voice
- Uses two or three words in addition to “da-da” or “ma-ma”
- Gives toys when asked
- Stops in response to “no”
- Follows simple directions



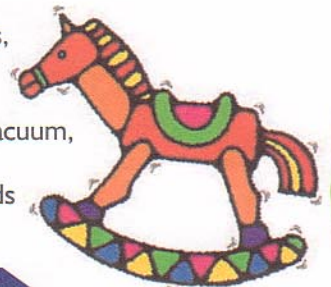
12 - 18 Months

- Identifies people, body parts and toys on request
- Locates sounds in all directions
- Names what she or he wants
- Talks in what sounds like sentences, with few understandable words
- Gestures with speech
- Bounces to music
- Repeats some words you say



18 - 24 Months

- Follows simple commands
- Speaks in two-word phrases, somewhat understandable
- Recognizes sounds in the environment—cars, dogs, vacuum, doorbell
- Has a vocabulary of 20 words or more



If your baby does not do some of these things at the age indicated, see your physician immediately. Early detection of any acquired hearing loss can make all the difference for a happy, healthy baby. It is important, when holding your infant, to keep eye contact and keep talking to them whether they have a hearing loss or not.

OFFICIAL MEDICAL RECORD

BABY HEARING TEST

Your baby, _____, born _____,
(name) (birthdate)

received a hearing test on _____ at _____
(date) (hospital/clinic)

using the following equipment: _____

The results were: Right Ear _____ Left Ear _____

Recommendations: _____



Be sure to keep test results with your baby's permanent records.



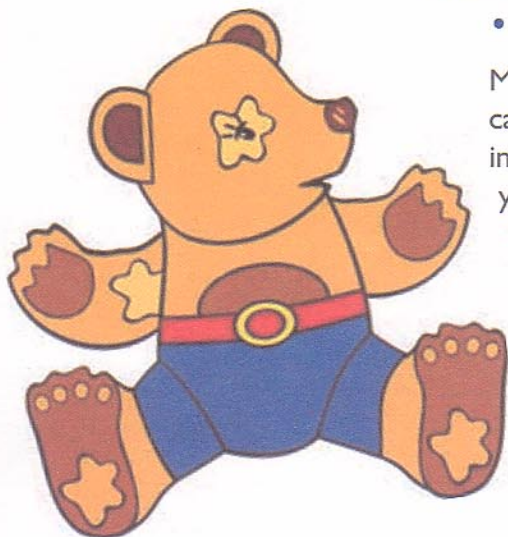
WHY TESTING YOUR BABY'S HEARING IS SO IMPORTANT

All infants should receive a hearing test within a few days of birth. If hearing is a problem, it should be addressed immediately. Some babies with normal hearing at birth, experience hearing loss during their first crucial months of life.

WHAT CAUSES INFANT HEARING LOSS?

Babies frequently acquire hearing loss after birth through:

- **Childhood diseases such as measles, mumps and meningitis.**
- **A family history of childhood hearing loss.**
- **Multiple ear infections.**



Middle ear infection and fluid retention is the most common cause of infant hearing loss. If your baby has three or more ear infections, or if your little one's hearing comes and goes, see your physician, pediatrician or audiologist immediately. If further hearing testing is recommended, it is essential to follow through. Hearing loss can delay speech and language development—so important during a baby's early years. The good news is—for many babies, prompt testing and treatment brings back a whole world of sound.

**See how your baby develops—
the milestones on the back will help you
keep track.**