

Each child develops at his or her own pace. It is very important for you to monitor your baby's speech and language and request help if you are concerned.

### 6 to 10 months

- ★ Turns head toward an interesting sound
- ★ Babbles (“ma-ma”, “ba-ba”, “da-da”)
- ★ Begins to imitate speech sounds
- ★ Understands “no,” “bye-bye,” and other common words

### 10 to 15 months

- ★ Points to or looks at familiar objects or people when asked to do so
- ★ Imitates simple words and sounds
- ★ Bounces or makes sounds when music is playing
- ★ Enjoys games like “peek-a-boo” and “pat-a-cake”



### 15 to 18 months

- ★ Follows simple directions, such as “give me the ball”
- ★ Answers when name is called from another room
- ★ Responds to singing or music
- ★ Understands simple “yes-no” questions
- ★ Uses 10-20 words
- ★ By 18 months, should use many more words

### 18 to 24 months

- ★ Uses 20 or more words
- ★ Combines 2 words “more juice” or “want cookie”
- ★ Enjoys simple stories and songs

### 24 to 36 months

- ★ Uses 30 or more words
- ★ Uses 2-3 word sentences
- ★ Can communicate most needs



Bureau of Early Intervention Services  
 Infant Hearing Program  
 Phone (614)-644-8389  
 1-800-755-GROW  
[www.ohiohelpmegrow.org](http://www.ohiohelpmegrow.org)



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## Early Identification Is Important

Two statewide programs are available at no cost to you and your baby. Both programs are for infants and children birth to 3 years of age:

1. Help Me Grow (HMG) 1-800-755-GROW
2. Regional Infant Hearing Program (RIHP)

The RIHP can provide you with home-based services that can help you communicate with your baby. There are many ways your baby can communicate with you. Some of these options include using sign language, hearing aids, cochlear implants or a combination of these options and other options. **Continue to play, talk and sing to your baby.**



Contact ODH if you have any questions and visit our Web site (listed below). We can help you find services in your area.



Bureau of Early Intervention Services  
 Infant Hearing Program  
 246 N. High Street,  
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[www.ohiohelpmegrow.org](http://www.ohiohelpmegrow.org)

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# A sound beginning...

## Parent Information



## Universal Newborn Hearing Screening (UNHS)



State law requires ALL babies to have a hearing screening before going home. Hearing screening is easy to do and safe.



# Newborn Hearing Screening

**H**earing Screening is a simple way to know if your baby can hear, or if more testing is needed. Babies use their hearing to develop speech and language skills that are very important for communication.

## How is the hearing screening done?

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- ★ Your baby can sleep during the test.
- ★ The screening is done in the nursery or quiet room.
- ★ Screening is quick (15 minutes or less).

**Your baby may have one or both of the hearing screening tests below:**

### **ABR: (Auditory Brainstem Response)**

Three patches are placed on the baby's face, shoulder and neck. Small headphones are placed over the baby's ears and the baby hears soft sounds.

### **OAE: (Otoacoustic Emissions)**

Soft foam or rubber tips are placed inside the baby's ears and the baby hears soft sounds.

## If your baby needs Follow-up Testing:

(due to a non-pass result or risk factor)

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### **Next Steps:**

(Goal: testing completed by 3-6 months or before)

1. Talk to your baby's doctor about the screening results at your first checkup.
2. Schedule follow-up testing with an audiologist (hearing professional) within **two-three weeks** of your baby's birthdate. Use the list provided by the hospital to find an audiologist.
3. The Regional Infant Hearing Program can help you find an audiologist or answer questions about follow-up testing.

## Always monitor speech and language milestones.

## Hearing Screening Results:

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### **Pass Result Means:**

- **The baby passed the hearing screening today.**
- ★ Always monitor speech and language milestones.

### **Pass Result with Risk Factor Means:**

- **The baby passed the hearing screening today.**
- ★ Your baby has one or more risk factors, please talk to your baby's doctor.
- ★ Further testing may be needed; sometimes hearing loss can occur later in life.

### **Non-Pass Result Means: See Follow-up testing section**

- **The baby did not pass the test today. More testing is necessary for your baby.**
- ★ Your baby's hearing needs to be checked again by an audiologist (hearing professional).
- ★ Fluid in the ears or other reasons may also cause this result.
- ★ This does not mean your baby has hearing loss, but a more detailed test is necessary.
- ★ Schedule the follow-up testing within two-three weeks after you go home from the hospital.
- ★ The hospital will give you a list of audiologists who can do more testing on your baby.
- ★ Do not be alarmed or scared by this result.

## After the Follow-up Test My Baby has Hearing Loss, What's Next?

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(Goal by 6 months or before)

1. The Doctor or Audiologist will talk to you about your baby's hearing loss.
2. The Regional Infant Hearing Program (RIHP) in your area will contact you.
3. RIHP has experienced parent advisors to answer your questions, give you information about *hearing loss, communication options, provide family support and resources.*
4. Help Me Grow-Birth to Three (Early Intervention) program will provide a service coordinator for your family.
5. Continue to see your Audiologist.
6. Call ODH for more information **614-644-8389**, or visit our Web site <http://www.ohiohelpmegrow.org>

## Hearing Can Be Tested At Any Age!

# Learning begins at Birth

- ★ Have FUN with your baby as he or she is growing. Talk, sing, and play with your baby.



## Speech and Language Milestones

- ★ Most babies who pass the hearing screening at birth can learn language and speak.
- ★ Some babies who pass the hearing screening at the hospital have hearing loss later in life.
- ★ It is important for you to monitor your baby's hearing, speech and language development.
- ★ It is important to have your baby tested by an audiologist (hearing professional) if you have concerns about your baby's hearing.

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

### Birth to 3 months

- ★ Startles to loud sounds
- ★ Calmed by familiar voice

### 3 to 6 months

- ★ Turns head to search for a sound
- ★ Uses eyes to look for sounds
- ★ May squeal, whimper or gurgle
- ★ Imitates own voice - "oohs" "ba-ba's"
- ★ Enjoys rattles and other toys that make sounds



*continued on back*

*Hearing loss or deafness can cause delays in your baby's speech, language or communication.*