

What Families Need to Know

Communication is Key!

A hearing screening is a test that checks how much and what your baby is hearing. There are many reasons why your baby may need another hearing screening. The most common are:

- **There was noise in the room**
- **Debris in the ear from delivery**
- **Baby was moving a lot**
- **Baby has hearing loss**

Regardless of the reason, it is important to get another screening as soon as possible. Identifying how your baby hears early is the best way to help them stay on track with their language development. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing need support services as early as possible (no later than 6 months old, but earlier is better) in order to develop communication and language skills similar to their peers.

THE HEARING SCREENING PROCESS



BEFORE THE SCREENING

It is best to do the hearing screening when a baby is sleeping. To help prepare your baby, try not to let them nap before the appointment, and be prepared to feed them just before the screening begins to help them fall asleep.



DURING THE SCREENING

The rescreening will be similar to the first screening your baby had when they were first born. Your baby will be able to sleep through the screening and will not experience any pain or discomfort. Their hearing will be measured using one of two tests, the Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) or the Auditory Brainstem Responses (ABR).



AFTER THE SCREENING

After the screening is complete, you will receive the results right away. It is important to share these results with your child's pediatrician at their next visit.

THE RESULTS



If your baby **NEEDS FURTHER TESTING**, an appointment will be scheduled, or you will receive a referral, to see an audiologist for diagnostic testing.



If your baby has a **PASS** result, no further testing is needed right now. It is important to pay attention to your baby's development and alert your doctor if you are worried.



If your baby is diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing, the Parent Pupil Education Program (PPEP), Hands and Voices, EarlySteps, and other organizations will reach out to you to provide guidance and support.



HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT HEARING SCREENING?

Contact the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program at **504-599-1086** or email us at laehdi@la.gov. For more information, visit us online at ldh.la.gov/ehdi.



June 2019