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 and what the next steps are.

CAN MY BABY HEAR?

**Your Baby's First
Hearing Test Arizona EHDI**

Why is hearing screening important?

- Hearing loss is one of the most common newborn conditions.
- Most babies with hearing loss have no signs or symptoms.
- The first three years are the most important for learning language and how to communicate.

You need to know if your newborn baby has a hearing loss so you can get the help your baby needs. If hearing loss is found early, your child will have the best chance to learn the skills needed to be ready for school.

How is hearing screening done?

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

If your baby PASSES the screening...

It means that your baby's hearing was in the normal range during the screening. Hearing loss can develop after you leave the hospital. It is important to check your baby's hearing and communication development during the first year.

If your baby DOES NOT PASS the screening...

- **By one month of age:** Make an appointment to come back to the hospital for an outpatient hearing screen within one to two weeks after birth. If your baby was in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for more than 5 days or has a risk factor, talk to your baby's doctor. Make the outpatient appointment with a pediatric audiologist, as soon as possible.
- **By three months of age:** Make sure that your baby has been tested by a pediatric audiologist by three months of age.
- **By six months of age:** If a hearing loss is confirmed, your baby should be enrolled in an early intervention program by six months of age.

Is my baby at risk for hearing loss?

Yes, if your baby has one or more of the following risk factors or conditions at birth:

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

These 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 or hearing specialist for further testing.

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 chuckles

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 hearing loss may also be able to do these things.

Arizona Department of Health Services

For more information about the Newborn Hearing Screening Program, please contact:

**Arizona Department of Health Services
Office of Newborn Screening**
Arizona Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI)

250 N 17th Ave, 1st floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007-3231
Phone: (602) 364-1409
or
(800) 548-8381 (within Arizona)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing call 711 for AZ Relay Service

Visit our website at:
www.AZNewborn.com

Talk to your baby's doctor if you have any concerns or questions.