

A Parent's Guide to Hearing Screening



Babies can't tell us if they can't hear



Idaho Sound Beginnings
Idaho Infant Toddler Program

Newborn Hearing Screen

When should I have my baby's hearing screened?

Your baby should have a hearing screening before leaving the hospital or within the first month of life. If hearing loss is suspected, make sure a pediatric audiologist (hearing expert) tests your baby's hearing. If hearing loss is early identified, there is much that can be done.

Where can my baby's hearing be screened?

All Idaho birthing hospitals have the equipment to perform the hearing screening before your baby leaves the hospital. If your baby is not born in a hospital, you should call the Idaho Careline at 2-1-1 to learn where your baby can have a hearing screening.

Why should my baby's hearing be screened?

If your baby can't hear well, he/she may have problems learning to talk and communicate.

Your baby's first year of life is critical to the development of speech and language.

Research shows that identifying hearing loss and doing something about it **early** makes a positive difference in the development of language, communication skills, thinking, reading, and social-emotional development. Maximizing your baby's potential is the desired goal.

Hearing Loss is the most common birth disorder in newborns. It affects how your baby perceives sounds and is able to communicate with you and the world.

Most babies with hearing loss are born to hearing parents.

"Although I am a pediatric nurse, I knew nothing about hearing loss in newborns. Because of my healthy pregnancy, I was stunned when my baby was diagnosed with hearing loss before he was one-month old. He was able to receive special services right away and is developing wonderfully. I am grateful for Ryder's progress and delighted that in addition to my hugs and smiles, he hasn't missed a moment of communicating with us and learning language."

Andrea A., mom and R.N., Boise, ID



My Audiologist (aw-dee-AH-luh-jist) is a specialist in infant hearing. *Ryder A.*

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Will my baby's hearing be tested?

Two different screening tools can be used to screen your infant's hearing. Both are safe and painless and screening takes place while your child is sleeping. Occasionally, screening can't be done before discharge, and a baby may need a follow-up screening.

If your baby does not pass the hearing screening, they should have a complete hearing evaluation by a pediatric audiologist to find out if there is a hearing loss. Hearing loss is invisible. Only audiological tests can identify hearing loss.



Questions or concerns about your baby's hearing or hearing test?

Call the Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1 for contact-

Idaho Sound Beginnings

www.babyhearing.idaho.gov

334-0829 or (208) 334-0983



to our
partner:



Balance Centers at the Elks
REHABILITATION HOSPITAL



Hearing Milestones

Follow your baby's development, even if he/she passed the hearing screening. Some babies develop hearing loss later in childhood.

MONTHS



Startles to sounds
Calmed by mother's voice
Turns head towards your voice



Turns eyes and head to find your voice
Babbles a variety of sounds
Enjoys sound-making toys



Reacts to hearing his name
Understands easy words like "no" and "bye-bye"
Says "da-da" or "ma-ma"



Repeats simple words and sounds
Use two to three words other than "ma-ma" or "da-da"
Gives toys on request



Uses seven or more true words
Follows simple spoken directions
Can ask for several things by name



Vocabulary of 20+ words
Speaks in two-word phrases



The Idaho Infant Toddler Program provides hearing screening for babies who are not born in a hospital.

Call 2-1-1 for information

Idaho Sound Beginnings

(208) 334-0829

(208) 334-0983

Where can I learn more about infant hearing loss and hearing screening?

www.babyhearing.org

www.hearandnow.org

www.babyhearing.idaho.gov

