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## Why Does My Baby Need More Testing?

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*Your baby may need more hearing testing for one of two reasons:*

- 1. Your baby did not pass the newborn hearing screening** Your baby may have had temporary fluid in the ear, may have been moving a lot during testing, or may have actual hearing loss. You will find the answers with more testing, so **DON'T WAIT!**
- 2. Your baby passed the newborn hearing screening, but has risk factors for hearing loss in childhood** Although your baby passed the hearing screening, your baby has at least one risk factor that can lead to hearing loss during childhood. Your baby should be tested between 9 and 12 months of age or sooner if you are concerned about your baby's hearing. Some risk factors for hearing loss include:
  - ✓ Your family has a history of children with hearing loss
  - ✓ Your baby was exposed to certain infections before birth
  - ✓ Your baby needed a special procedure to treat jaundice
  - ✓ Your baby's head, face or ears are shaped or formed differently

The *Who, What and Why of Newborn Hearing Screening* brochure has a list of other risk factors that can lead to hearing loss.

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## What Will Happen Next?

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- 1. Referral to an audiologist** Your baby's hospital should refer your baby directly to an audiologist or to your doctor for a referral to an audiologist.
  - ✓ *An audiologist is an expert in hearing testing and follow-up. Babies should be seen by an audiologist who has experience in testing very young babies.*



- 2. Testing by an audiologist** Your baby should be seen by an audiologist who works with newborns and young children. Your baby's doctor or First Steps can help you choose an audiologist to perform your child's hearing testing.

**3. Follow-up hearing testing** Hearing testing is done while your baby is asleep or resting quietly. These tests are safe and do not hurt your baby. There are three possible results of this follow-up hearing testing:

- ✓ Your baby does not have any hearing problems.
- ✓ Your baby has a hearing loss that may be temporary and treatable. Your baby will be referred to a doctor for treatment.
- ✓ Your baby has a permanent hearing loss and will need ongoing care by specialists trained to work with children who have hearing loss.

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**If hearing loss is found early (before 3 months of age), and follow-up help is started right away (before 6 months of age), your baby has a good chance of learning to communicate at the same pace as children without hearing loss.**

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- 4. Follow-up care** If your child does have hearing loss, your baby's doctor or other medical provider may refer you to a specialist such as an ear, nose, and throat doctor and early intervention professionals who know how to work with babies with hearing loss.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. Are there different kinds of hearing loss?

Yes. Some types of hearing loss (such as fluid or wax in the ear) can be medically treated. Other types of hearing loss are permanent and cannot be treated with medicine or surgery. People with a permanent hearing loss usually need amplification (such as hearing aids) to help them hear. Your baby's audiologist will talk about available options for your baby.

### Q. My baby seems to hear fine. Do I still need to have him or her tested?

Yes! It is important to make sure that your baby hears well in both ears. It's easy to miss mild hearing loss and hearing loss in only one ear. These types of hearing losses can still cause speech and language delays.

### Q. I've been told to "wait and see"— Is it OK to wait to have my baby tested?

No! The first six months of life are a very important time in your baby's development. Finding a hearing loss early helps make sure your baby doesn't fall behind. If your baby did not pass the screening, follow-up hearing testing should be completed before your baby is three months old.

### Q. How many babies are born with hearing loss each year?

89,000 babies are born in Indiana each year. 2 – 3 out of every 1,000 babies have permanent hearing loss in one or both ears.



## Questions?

### The Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

Call 855.875.5193, or go online to [www.hearing.in.gov](http://www.hearing.in.gov). Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may access Relay Indiana to assist you with this call at 711 if needed.

This program, which is part of the Newborn Screening Program at the Indiana State Department of Health, can answer questions about your baby's hearing and provide help.

### Ask Your Doctor

Call your primary care provider or your medical home. They help keep your child healthy and oversee your baby's medical needs.

### First Steps Early Intervention System

Call 800.441.7837 or go online to [www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2633.htm](http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2633.htm). This program provides follow-up services for babies from birth to three years of age who have developmental delays.

For general questions and concerns about your baby, call the **Indiana Family Help Line at 855.435.7178.**

## What If My Baby Needs More Hearing Testing?

If your baby did not pass the newborn hearing screening or has risk factors for hearing loss, more testing is needed, so **DON'T DELAY!**



Parents and babies communicate right from the start. You communicate your love in so many ways: through your voice, your touch and your facial expressions. Enjoy these moments with your baby!



Indiana State  
Department of Health

**THE EARLY HEARING DETECTION & INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

**855.875.5193 [www.hearing.IN.gov](http://www.hearing.IN.gov)**