

# NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING PASS

## Your Baby Passed the First Hearing Screening!

The results of the hearing screening indicate that your baby is able to hear in both ears at this time.

**Baby's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Method of Screening** (circle one):      **OAE**      **ABR**

## How Did We Screen Your Baby's Hearing?

The screening only took a few minutes, most likely while your baby slept. Soft sounds were played through earphones specially made for babies. Your baby's responses to the sound were automatically measured by Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) or Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR).

Today's easy screening methods are very reliable. Rarely will a baby with a hearing loss be missed.

The screening suggests that your baby is hearing now. However, a small number of babies who pass the newborn hearing screening may develop a hearing loss later in life.

## Why Test a Baby?

Hearing loss can be invisible. Now, technology makes it possible to detect a hearing loss in the early days of a baby's life.

The first months and years of a child's life are very important for developing communication skills. A baby who has a hearing loss or deafness may have difficulty in developing normal language skills or may not do well in school. This is why it is important to identify the loss early and provide special services to the baby and family.

## How Many Babies Have a Hearing Loss?

Serious hearing loss is found in about 2-4 out of 1000 babies. About 50% of babies with hearing loss have no known signs or risk factors, like serious illness or family history of deafness. Some babies may develop hearing loss later in life from repeated ear infections, meningitis, head injury or other medical conditions. Sometimes babies lose their hearing and the reason is never known.

Talk to your baby’s doctor if you have any questions or concerns. The number one reason to test a child’s hearing regardless of any prior testing result is caregiver concern. You know your child best.

## What’s Next for Baby?

Hearing should be checked as your baby grows. Newborn Hearing Screening is a first step in watching your baby’s hearing, speech, and language progress. It is important to pay attention to how your baby’s language and speech develop.

The “Hearing and Speech Stages by Age” information in this brochure lists some of the things most babies will do at different ages. As your baby grows, you can compare their actions and speech to the list. If you have any concerns about your baby’s hearing, contact your baby’s doctor or health care provider right away.

## Hearing and Speech Stages by Age

Age	Hearing and Speech Stages
<b>Birth to 3 Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Quiets to familiar voices or sounds</li> <li>» Reacts to loud sounds, baby startles, blinks, stops sucking, cries, or wakes up.</li> <li>» Makes soft sounds when awake, baby gurgles</li> </ul>
<b>3 to 6 Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Turns eyes or head toward sounds, voices, noise making toys, dog barking</li> <li>» Starts to make speech like sounds, “ga,” “ooh,” “ba” and p, b, m sounds</li> <li>» Reacts to a change in your tone of voice</li> </ul>
<b>6 to 9 Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Responds to own name and looks when called</li> <li>» Understands simple words, “no,” “bye-bye”, “juice”</li> <li>» Babbles, “da da da,” “ma ma ma,” “ba ba ba”</li> </ul>
<b>9 to 12 Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Responds to both soft or loud sounds</li> <li>» Repeats single words and imitates animal sounds</li> <li>» Points to favorite toys or foods when asked</li> </ul>

Age	Hearing and Speech Stages
<b>12 to 18 Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Uses 10 or more words</li> <li>» Follows simple spoken directions, "get the ball"</li> <li>» Points to people, body parts or toys when asked</li> <li>» Bounces to music</li> </ul>
<b>18 to 24 Months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Uses 20 or more words</li> <li>» Combines 2 or more words, "more juice,"</li> <li>» "what's that?"</li> <li>» Uses many different consonant sounds at beginning of words, b, g, m</li> <li>» Listens to simple stories and songs</li> </ul>
<b>2 to 3 Years</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Uses 2-3 word sentences</li> <li>» At 2 years, people can understand what the child says some of the time (25%-50%)</li> <li>» At 3 years, people can understand what the child says most of the time (50%-75%)</li> <li>» Follows two-step instructions, "get the ball and put it on the table"</li> </ul>

**Hearing can be tested at any age.**

The goal of California’s Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP) is to identify babies with hearing loss and link them with services by six months of age. The NHSP has Hearing Coordination Centers that work with families, health care providers, and hospitals to make sure children get needed services.

The NHSP collects information about your baby’s hearing screenings as per Section 124119 of the Health and Safety Code. The Hearing Coordination Centers may use this information to assist you and your baby in getting services you may need. It is possible that the Hearing Coordination Center may contact you about the follow-up services.

**For more information:**

- » Call Toll Free 1-877-388-5301 or visit us on the web at [www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/nhsp](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/nhsp)

