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Hearing Screening Refer

Why Does My Baby Need Another Hearing Screening?

Many babies need to repeat the screening. Your baby does NOT necessarily have a hearing loss. It is not always possible to get a good first screen. There are a number of factors that can interfere with a hearing screening. For example, noise in the room, an active baby, or fluid or debris in the ear following delivery.

It is best to re-screen the baby between one week and one month of age. The hospital will make a re-screen appointment for you. During this time, the California Newborn Hearing Screening Program's Hearing Coordination Center (HCC) is available to assist you and your baby to get the services you need.

It is Important to Keep the Re-Screen Appointment

The re-screen is one step in watching your baby's hearing, speech and language progress. 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

What You Can Do to Prepare for Baby's Hearing Re-Screening

It will be helpful if your baby is sleeping during the test. Some suggestions to help prepare your baby for the hearing re-screening include:

1. Try not to let your baby nap before the appointment.
2. Feeding your baby just before testing may help to get him/her to sleep
3. Bring a blanket, extra diapers, change of clothes, and extra formula, if used.

What Will Happen After the Re-Screening

You and your baby's doctor or health care provider will be given the results of the hearing re-screen. It is likely that your baby will pass the re-screen. A few babies will need more complete hearing evaluation. If at the time of re-screen it is determined that your baby needs a diagnostic hearing evaluation, the person doing the re-screen may schedule the evaluation for you or refer you to another provider.

It is important to pay attention to how your child's language and speech develop. The "Hearing & Speech Ages & Stages" information in this brochure lists some of the things most babies will do at different ages.

How Will My Baby's Hearing Be Re-Screened?

The re-screening will be very similar to the first screening your baby had in the hospital. The screening will take only a few minutes, most likely while your baby sleeps. Soft sounds will be played through earphones specially made for babies. Your baby's responses to the sound will be automatically measured by Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) or Auditory Brainstem Responses (ABR).

Who Pays for Hearing Re-Screening?

The cost of the Newborn Hearing Screening may be covered by your health insurance. Medi-Cal will pay for screening for eligible babies.

If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, Contact baby's doctor or health care provider.

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

The Newborn Hearing Screening Program collects information about your baby's hearing screenings as per Section 124119 of the Hearing 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.

Hearing & Speech Ages & Stages

Birth to 3 months

- Quiets to familiar voices or sounds
- Reacts to loud sounds, *baby startles, blinks, stops sucking, cries, or wakes up*
- Makes soft sounds when awake, *baby gurgles*

3 to 6 Months

- Turns eyes or head toward sounds, voices, noise making toys, dog barking
- Starts to make speech like sounds, "*ga*," "*ooh*," "*ba*" and *p, b, m* sounds
- Reacts to a change in your tone of voice

6 to 9 Months

- Responds to own name and looks when called
- Understands simple words, "*no*," "*bye-bye*," "*juice*"
- Babbles, "*da da da*," "*ma ma ma*," "*ba ba ba*"

9 to 12 Months

- Responds to both soft or loud sounds
- Repeats single words and imitates animal sounds
- Points to favorite toys or foods when asked

12 to 18 Months

- Uses 10 or more words
- Follows simple spoken directions, "*get the ball*"
- Points to people, body parts or toys when asked
- Bounces to music

18 to 24 Months

- Uses 20 or more words
- Combines 2 or more words, "*more juice*," "*what's that?*"
- Uses many different consonant sounds at beginning of words, *b, g, m*
- Listens to simple stories and songs

2 Years to 3 Years

- Uses 2-3 word sentences
- At 2 years, people can understand what the child says some of the time (25%-50%)
- At 3 years, people can understand what the child says most of the time (50%-75%)
- Follows two-step instructions, "*get the ball and put it on the table*"

Hearing can be tested at any age.