

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING



*Approximately 4-6 babies out of 1000 have some degree of hearing loss.
It is important to have your baby's hearing checked.*

F FERNANDEZ
HOSPITAL



stork home

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Newborn hearing screening – why does my baby need it?

Your baby's most important learning takes place between birth and 3 years, and any untreated hearing loss can interfere with their understanding. If your baby has a hearing loss, detecting it early is good for their language, learning and social development.

What should I know about the screening?

- Screening is usually done before you leave the hospital (12 hours after birth)
- The screening is safe, painless, and takes about 10 minutes and is best done when your baby is settled or sleeping.
- Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (AABR): This test will be conducted by an audiologist. Three sticky pads are put on the baby's head, shoulder & neck. A small soft tipped earpiece is put in the outer part of the baby's ear which will deliver a clicking sound and the screener measures your baby's response to the sounds.

What happens after the newborn hearing screening?

Report will be given that explains the screening results (Pass/Inconclusive) and information for follow up appointment.

Some babies may need another screening because the earlier screening may not have shown a strong enough response in one or both ears. This may be because:

- Your baby was unsettled
- There was too much noise in the testing room
- There was debris in the ear canal
- Your baby may have a hearing loss possibly which has to be confirmed by further testing

You will be offered a repeat screening, either before leaving the hospital or as an outpatient appointment (within 10-15 days).

What if a repeat screen does not give a clear result?

This may not mean your baby has a hearing loss. Audiologist will perform confirmation diagnostic tests (BERA) and give further advice.

What if my baby has permanent hearing loss?

Hearing loss can either be inherited or can be caused by conditions during pregnancy or after the baby is born. Most types of hearing loss can be corrected by early treatment.

The checklist will help you monitor your baby's speech and language skills as they grow.

Your Baby's Stages of Hearing

0-3 months

Startles to a sudden loud sound
Soothes or calms to your voice
Makes sounds like "ohh" and "ahh"



3-6 months

Turns head or moves eyes to find a familiar voice
Makes noises and sounds like "baba," "mama" or "gaga"
Uses many sounds, squeals and chuckles

6-10 months

Begins to understand common words like "no" and "bye-bye"
Responds to his/her name



CONSENT FOR HEARING SCREENING

I authorize/request a hearing screening test for my newborn. _____.

I understand that a screening fee will be billed and may or may not be paid by my insurance.

Date:

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

10-15 months

- Repeats simple words and sounds that you make
- Points or reaches for familiar objects
- Correctly uses “mama” or “dada”
- Responds to singing or music



18 months

- Follows simple, spoken directions
- Regularly uses several clear words

24 months

- Understands you when you call from another room
- Points to body parts when asked
- Begins to speak in two-word combinations like “Mommy more!”

Please contact: *Fernandez Hospital / Audiology / Unit 1, Unit 2 & Stork Home*

FH/PIL/NICU/HearScreenNewborn/1169/Ver3/Jan2020



I DO NOT wish to have this service provided at this time. The importance of testing my newborn’s hearing has been explained to me, and I will contact my paediatrician if I decide to have my baby’s hearing tested at a future date. I have read and fully understood the Newborn Hearing Screening brochure and accept full responsibility for choosing not to have this test performed.

Date:

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian