

For More Information Contact A Program Partner

The University of Illinois at Chicago
Division of Specialized Care
for Children (DSCC)



1-800-322-3722 (Voice/TTY)

Visit our web site at: www.uic.edu/hsc/dscc

Your may speak to a representative between:
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Staff at IDPH can answer questions about the
newborn hearing screening program and give
you information about local programs.

1-800-545-2200 (Voice)
1-800-547-0466 (TTY)

Illinois Department of Human Services

You may call the automated helpline
24 hours a day at:

1-800-843-6154 (Voice)
1-800-447-6404 (TTY)

Visit our web site at: www.dhs.state.il.us



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Illinois Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Providing Sound Beginnings

Information for Parents



Dear Parents,

Your child's most important learning takes place during the first years of life. Did you know that babies begin to understand words at the moment they are born? They are already learning speech and language even though they won't say their first words until about 12 months of age.

Babies must be able to hear so that they can learn to talk. That is why it is important to identify babies who have a hearing loss, so they can receive the help they need at a young age. If you find hearing loss early, your baby will have the best chance to learn.

Parents have the right to refuse the hearing screening if their religion does not allow it.

**Babies
can't tell
us if they
can't hear,
but a simple
screening
test can tell us.**



**ILLINOIS' NEWBORN HEARING
SCREENING PROGRAM,
available through your hospital,
will test your newborn
baby's hearing.**

It is important to have your baby's hearing checked.



Every year
in Illinois,
as many as
500 babies
are born with
hearing loss.

That is why it is important to test all
newborn babies before they leave the
hospital.

A trained person will test your baby's
hearing using special computerized
equipment.

The screening test does not hurt and
can be given while your baby is asleep.
It will show whether your baby's hear-
ing is normal or whether more testing is
needed.

You will get the results of the hearing
screening test before you leave the
hospital or within the first few days after
you go home.

What if your baby does not pass the test?

Five percent of newborns may not pass the screening test. If your baby does not pass, it does not mean he or she is deaf or hard-of-hearing. It just means the baby needs to have another test. Sometimes the baby is too fussy during the screening test or there is a temporary problem that will correct itself.

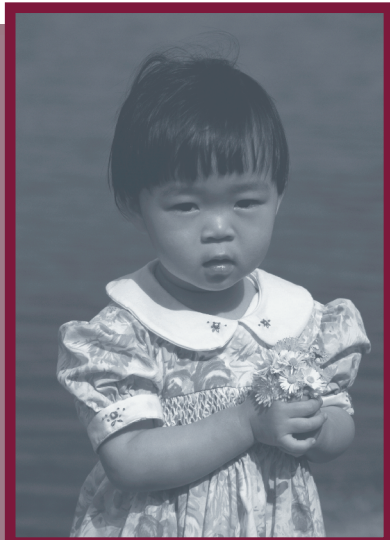
If your baby does not pass the first hearing screening test, it is important to have him or her tested again within one month. The hospital will give you the name and phone number of an audiologist or a doctor who can perform the second test to make sure that your baby can hear.



Some babies need to be tested again, even if they pass the first test.

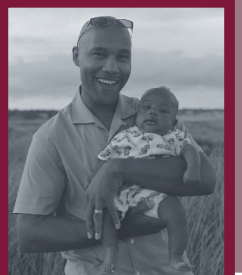
Some babies can hear well enough to pass the first test but lose their hearing later. For this reason, some babies should be tested again when they are 3 months old.

Ask your doctor or nurse if your baby should be retested. It can make a big difference in your baby's life if you find a hearing loss early.



How you can check your baby's hearing . . .

No one knows your baby better than you do. Here are some things a child with normal hearing should be able to do. Keep this list so you can use it often to check on your child.



Age 0 to 3 months

- Jumps at a sudden, loud noise
- Calms down when you speak
- Quiets when a familiar voice is heard

Age 3 to 6 months

- Turns head or moves eyes to find your voice
- Plays at making noises and sounds
- Enjoys rattles and other noise-making toys

Age 6 to 10 months

- Reacts to hearing his or her name
- Begins to understand easy words like "no" and "bye-bye"
- Babbles by saying sounds like "da-da," "ba" or "ma"

Age 10 to 15 months

- Repeats simple words and sounds that you make
- Uses two or three words other than "ma-ma" or "da-da"
- Responds positively to rhymes and jingles like "pat a cake"

Age 18 months

- Follows simple spoken directions
- Uses seven or more real words
- Recognizes names of body parts such as nose, eyes, ears

Age 24 months

- Understands when you call from another room
- Points to body parts when asked
- Refers to self by name

Check your baby's hearing at home.

It is a good idea to check how well your baby hears and talks as he or she grows. If you are worried about your baby's hearing or talking, call the doctor right away.