



A guide to your baby's first hearing test

MONTANA ♥ .....  
Newborn Screening



## Why should my baby's hearing **be tested?**

- ♥ Most babies can hear well at birth, but a few do not.
- ♥ We test all babies to find the ones who may not be able to hear.
- ♥ Testing is the only way to know if a baby has hearing loss.
- ♥ It is important to find hearing loss as soon as possible. Babies whose hearing loss is not found early will have a hard time learning.
- ♥ If we find hearing loss early, there are many ways we can help your baby.
- ♥ Make sure your baby's hearing is tested before you leave the hospital.

## What should I know about **the test?**

- ♥ The test is safe and painless and can be done in less than 10 minutes.
- ♥ Most babies sleep through the test.
- ♥ You will get the test results before you leave the hospital.
- ♥ Be sure to tell the hospital the name of your baby's health professional or clinic so they can send them the results.





## Why do some babies need another hearing test?

♥ Some babies need another test because:

- They have fluid in the ear
- Baby was moving a lot during the initial test
- There was excessive noise in the testing room
- The baby has hearing loss

♥ Most babies who need another test have normal hearing. Some will have hearing loss.

♥ If your baby does not pass the hearing test, make sure he or she is tested again as soon as possible, and by no later than one month of age.

Can a newborn baby pass the hearing test and still have hearing loss?

♥ Yes, some babies hear well enough to pass the first test, but lose their hearing later because of:

- Some illnesses
- Some injuries
- Certain medicines
- A family history of hearing loss

♥ Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows.

♥ Use the list on the next page as a guide.



# A baby with normal hearing should be able to:

## ♥ Birth to 3 Months of Age

- Blinks or jumps when there is a sudden loud sound
- Quiets or smiles when spoken to
- Makes sounds like “ohh”, “ahh”

## ♥ 3 to 6 Months of Age

- Looks for sounds with eyes
- Starts babbling (“baba”, “mama”, “gaga”)
- Uses many sounds, squeals and chuckles

## ♥ 6 to 9 Months of Age

- Turns head toward loud sounds
- Understands “no-no” or “bye-bye”
- Babbles, for example “baba”, “mama”, or “gaga”

## ♥ 9 to 12 Months of Age

- Repeats simple words and sounds you make
- Correctly uses “mama” or “dada”
- Responds to singing or music
- Points to favorite toys and objects when asked

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If you have questions about your baby’s hearing or this list, talk with your baby’s health professional.

## Where can I get more information?

Visit [newbornscreening.mt.gov](http://newbornscreening.mt.gov) or call 800-762-9891



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