

# Newborn screening: Hearing screen

## Three simple screens



A baby may **look healthy** but be **born with a hearing problem.**



All babies in the United States receive **newborn screening**. Each **state** decides which **conditions** to **screen** for.

Helps identify babies at risk for **hearing loss**. If found early, babies can be **referred** for additional **testing**.



## Hearing screen process



**Hearing screen**

**Before a baby leaves the hospital**, a health care provider places a **soft earphone** in the baby's ear that plays sounds.

This checks how the baby's ear and brain respond to sound.



**Lab results**

If there are signs of hearing loss in one or both ears, the baby needs **more tests**.

The baby needs to be tested at **least 2 more times** in the **first month after birth**.



**Follow-up**

All hearing screening results should be reported to the baby's provider.

### Positive screen:

- ✓ **Provider** should follow up with the **baby's family**.
- ✓ **Provider** refers the baby to a **pediatric audiologist** to evaluate the baby for **permanent hearing loss** before the **baby is 3 months old**.
- ✓ If the baby has hearing loss, provider refers the baby to an **early intervention program** before the baby is **6 months old**.

### Negative screen:

- ✓ **Baby** is released from the hospital and **no additional testing** is needed.



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