

# Newborn screening: Hearing screen

Three simple screens



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



All babies in the US 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



**Before a baby leaves the hospital**, a healthcare 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.



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

The baby should have a complete hearing test as soon as possible—ideally, before three months of age.



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

If the screen is negative (normal result), there's no need for additional testing.

### **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 three months old.
- ✓ If the baby has hearing loss, provider refers the baby to an early intervention program before the baby is six months old.



[MARCHOFDIMES.ORG](https://www.marchofdimes.org)