

Some things a baby with normal hearing should be able to do:

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 (“baba,” “mama,” “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

Who do I call if I have questions?

Your baby’s doctor or audiologist are the best people to ask. If you need help finding a professional to talk to in your community, call the South Dakota Newborn Screening Program at 1-800-738-2301

Where else can I get information?

<http://doh.sd.gov/Hearing/default.aspx>

The South Dakota Department of Health and birthing hospitals across the state have implemented an infant hearing screening program. The purpose is to find infants with hearing loss. The South Dakota Department of Health Newborn Hearing Screening Program is also working with audiologists and early intervention service coordinators. Together we want to identify hearing loss in children by 3 months of age and enroll children in services (as needed) by 6 months of age.

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Newborn Hearing Screening: What, When & Why

South Dakota
Department of Health
Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Why Should My Infant's Hearing Be Screened?

Most babies can hear well at birth, but a few do not. Hospitals screen all babies to find the ones who may not be able to hear. Screening is the only way to know if your baby has a hearing loss. It is important to identify hearing loss as soon as possible. The first 6 months of life are the most important for speech and language development. Early identification and treatment are the keys to success. Babies who have hearing loss can be helped in many ways to develop to their full potential.

What should I know about the screening?

The screening is safe and will not hurt. It can be done in about 10 minutes. Most babies sleep through the screening. You will get the screening results before you leave the hospital. Be sure to tell the hospital the name of your baby's healthcare provider or clinic so they can send them the results.

Your baby's hearing screening results

Name: _____

Right ear: Pass Not Pass

Left ear: Pass Not Pass

Appointment for next screening:

Needed Not needed

Date: _____ Time: _____

Phone: _____ Location: _____

Why do some babies need another hearing screening?

Some babies need another screening because:

- There was temporary fluid in the ear
- The baby was moving a lot
- There was noise in the screening room
- The baby has a hearing loss

Most babies who need another screening have normal hearing. It is important that you follow through with any recommendations made by the hospital staff, physician, or audiologist.

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

- Yes, some babies hear well enough to pass the first screening, but lose their hearing later because of:
 - Some illnesses
 - Some injuries
 - Some medicines
 - A family history of hearing loss
- Watch for signs of hearing loss as your baby grows - use the list in this brochure as a guide.

