



# Your Baby's HEARING

APPROXIMATELY  
**3** OUT OF **1,000**  
INFANTS are BORN with HEARING LOSS



## 1 MONTH

All infants should have their hearing screened no later than ONE month of age

## 3 MONTHS

All infants who don't pass the initial screening should receive a diagnosis no later than THREE months of age

## 6 MONTHS

All infants identified with hearing loss should receive early intervention services no later than SIX months of age

IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS AT ANY POINT IN YOUR BABY'S DEVELOPMENT, CONTACT THEIR DOCTOR.

## HIGHER RISK FOR DEVELOPING HEARING LOSS

- ★ A NICU stay longer than 5 days
- ★ In utero infections, including CMV, herpes, rubella
- ★ Head trauma
- ★ Disorders such as Huntington's syndrome
- ★ Chemotherapy
- ★ Low birth weight
- ★ Head and face anomalies
- ★ Family history of hearing loss

CHILDREN WHO PASS THEIR NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING CAN DEVELOP HEARING LOSS AT ANY POINT AFTER BIRTH

UP TO **5%** of children have HEARING LOSS by school age

THE IMPACT OF HEARING LOSS CAN BE REDUCED WHEN IDENTIFIED AND APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION IS PROVIDED EARLY

If not addressed, **HEARING LOSS CAN LEAD TO** delayed speech, language, and brain development, social isolation, reduced academic achievement, and more.

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**The following activities provide your child with a language rich environment**

- ★ Read books out loud everyday
- ★ Use “baby-talk” with infant
- ★ Talk about what you are doing in everyday environments
- ★ Sing nursery rhymes
- ★ Build confidence with positive reinforcement



Age Range	Communication Milestones	Red Flags for Hearing Loss
Birth to 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coos and makes pleasure sounds</li> <li>• Calms down or smiles when spoken to</li> <li>• Recognizes your voice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't startle at loud sounds</li> </ul>
4 to 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smiles in response to social interaction</li> <li>• Follows sounds with his or her eyes</li> <li>• Babbles in a speech-like way and uses many different sounds (p, b, m)</li> <li>• Pays attention to music</li> <li>• Responds to changes in the tone of your voice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't babble or babbling discontinues after 6 months of age</li> </ul>
7 to 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turns and looks in the direction of sound</li> <li>• Babbles using long and short groups of sounds (mamama, bibi)</li> <li>• Understands words for common items such as “cup”, “shoe”, and “juice”</li> <li>• Communicates using gestures such as waving or holding up arms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't respond to familiar voices</li> <li>• Doesn't notice toys that make sounds</li> <li>• Doesn't bounce to music</li> </ul>
1 to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has one or two words by first birthday</li> <li>• Acquires new words on a regular basis</li> <li>• Enjoys simple stories, songs, and rhymes</li> <li>• Follows simple commands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't acknowledge name called</li> <li>• Doesn't imitate simple words</li> <li>• Doesn't respond to television</li> </ul>
2 to 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequently uses 2 or 3 word phrases</li> <li>• Understood by family and friends</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't follow simple commands</li> </ul>



doh.sd.gov  
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM

South Dakota Department of Health • 600 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501  
Phone: 605-773-3361 OR 1-800-738-2301 • Fax: 605-773-5683

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