



SWIS-H
STATEWIDE INFANT
SCREENING - HEARING



WHY DOES MY BABY NEED A HEARING SCREEN?

Your baby will be offered a series of health checks in the first few weeks of life. One of these looks for hearing loss. The hearing screen will be offered as soon as possible after birth.

If it is not possible to have the screen while you and your baby are in hospital, you will be offered the hearing screen for your baby as an outpatient or at a local community location, soon after discharge from hospital.

WHY DOES MY BABY NEED A HEARING SCREEN?

About one to two babies out of every 1000 babies born will have a significant hearing loss.

It is important to find out as soon as possible how well your baby hears so that you and your baby can get the correct advice and support. By the time children say their first word they have been listening to the way we talk for about a year.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN SCREENING MY BABY?

A trained hearing screener will carry out the screen when your baby is asleep or resting quietly. You are welcome to stay with your baby while the screen is being done.

The screener will place small sensor pads on your baby's head and play soft clicking sounds into the baby's ears through an earphone. The sensor pads record your baby's responses to the sounds.

The screen usually does not unsettle the baby. The screen may take 10-20 minutes to complete.

RESULTS

As soon as the hearing screen is completed, the results will be explained to you and recorded in your baby's Personal Health Record (Blue Book).

If the results show that a repeat screen is required, it does not necessarily mean that your baby has a hearing loss. There may be other reasons for this result. The most common reason for a repeat screen being required is fluid or a blockage in your baby's ear after the birth.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO AS MY BABY GROWS OLDER?

Hearing may not always remain the same over time.

It is important to monitor your baby's speech and language development as well as their responses to sound.

You can refer to the checklist overleaf to monitor your child's progress.

If you are concerned about your child's hearing or speech and language development in the future, please arrange to have your child's hearing tested. Ask your family doctor for a referral to an appropriate service for your child's hearing to be tested.

Hearing can be tested at any age.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE THE BELOW WEBSITE:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/kids-families>

Local contact / appointment details



Health

For health advice contact *healthdirect Australia*

<http://www.healthdirect.gov.au/>

1800 022 222



HEARING CHECKLIST

Birth to 3 months

Reacts to loud sounds

Becomes quiet with familiar voices or sounds

Makes cooing noises

Responds to speech by looking at speaker's face

3-6 months

Turns eyes or head toward sounds

Starts to make speech-like sounds

Laughs and makes noises to show how they are feeling

6-9 months

Babbles, 'dada' 'ma-ma' 'baba'

Shouts/vocalises to get attention

Will often respond to 'no' and own name

Responds to singing and music

9-12 months

Imitates speech sounds of others

Understands simple words, eg 'ball', 'dog', 'daddy'

Turns head to soft sounds

Speaks first words

12-18 months

Appears to understand some new words each week

Follows simple spoken instructions, eg 'get the ball'

Points to people, body parts or toys when asked

Continually learns new words to say although may be unclear

18-24 months

Has between 100-200 words that they use regularly

Listens to simple stories or songs

Combines two or more words in short phrases eg 'more juice'

Notes:

