

YOUR BABY'S HEARING

THE MOST CRITICAL
TIME FOR LEARNING
LANGUAGE IS THE
FIRST 3 YEARS OF LIFE.



Newborn hearing screening is important. Make sure your baby's hearing is screened before 1 month of age.

Did your baby pass newborn hearing screening?

DID NOT PASS

Babies do not pass newborn hearing screening for many reasons.

Reasons could be:

- Fluid in the ear
- Your baby was moving or crying during the screening
- Your baby has a hearing loss

Please follow up with a pediatric audiologist to complete a comprehensive hearing evaluation as soon as possible.

PASSED

- It is likely that your baby has a normal hearing. But hearing screening cannot pick up mild hearing loss.
- It is important to pay attention to your baby's responses to soft and loud sounds.
- If you have concerns about your child's hearing, we recommend you talk to your child's doctor and see a pediatric audiologist immediately.

Why do I have a follow-up appointment although my baby passed the hearing screening?

- Children can develop hearing loss as they grow.
- There are some factors that put your child at risk for hearing loss.

Risk factors could be:

- Family history of permanent childhood hearing loss
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) stay more than 5 days
- Infections during pregnancy such as cytomegalovirus (CMV), herpes, and rubella

If your child has one or more of the risk factors of hearing loss, they will need to follow up with an audiologist regularly to monitor hearing.

How to identify hearing loss: a comprehensive hearing evaluation

- A comprehensive hearing evaluation is easy and NOT painful.
- A hearing evaluation with an audiologist is the only way to find out if your child has a hearing loss.
- Here are main types of the hearing evaluation:
 - Auditory Brainstem Responses (ABR) test and Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)
 - Commonly used when a child is under 6 months old or is unable to respond to sound consistently
 - For ABR testing, electrodes are placed on child's head and their brain wave activity in responses to sound is recorded
 - For OAE testing, small earphones are placed in child's ear and the responses to sounds are recorded
 - Behavioral Audiometry
 - Commonly used when a child is 6 months of age and older
 - Child's response to sound is observed, including turning their head looking for the sound, or raising their hand once they are older

What to do if my child is diagnosed with hearing loss:

- AG Bell is here to help! Contact our Parent Support Line at 1-833-575-5465. You can also talk to Julie Swaim, our parent consultant, through text or email (parentsupportline@agbell.org). We can translate for you no matter what language you speak.
- Consult with an Ear, Nose, Throat (ENT) doctor about your kid's hearing or any concerns
- We recommended you find a pediatric audiologist to talk about hearing devices
- Enrolled in your local early intervention centers or speech and hearing clinics
- Work with an early intervention specialist to help your child to learn to listen and talk
- If you wish your child to learn listening and spoken language, you can find certified professionals near you. (<https://www.agbell.org/locateLSLS>)

What can I do at home to help my child learn language?

- **Talk to your baby**
Talk to your baby about what you are doing or what they are doing.
- **Read to your baby**
Try to read to your baby often. But do not worry about finishing entire books.
- **Sing to your baby**
Sing to your baby and play with them. They will recognize your voice and bond with you.
- **Limit background noise**
Turn off noisy appliances or turn down the volume of the TV when you talk to your baby.

CHILDREN
WITH
HEARING
LOSS CAN
HEAR, SPEAK
AND THRIVE!



For more information

Visit our website:

<https://www.agbell.org>

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

3417 Volta Place NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

Tel: 202-337-5220

TTY: 202-337-5221

info@agbell.org

Parent support line:

Tel: 1-833-575-5465

parentsupportline@agbell.org

*This flyer can be translated into
most languages upon request.
Contact us to learn how.*

a.g.bell
Association for the Deaf
& Hard of Hearing