



# “Newborn Hearing Screening”



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### Our Diagnosis Centre



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# Newborn Hearing Screening



[www.eljayhearing.com](http://www.eljayhearing.com)

## Importance of Newborn Hearing Screening:

Hearing loss is a hidden disability; that's why it is so important to have your baby's hearing tested. Permanent hearing loss is seen in about 4 in 1000 babies. About 50% of babies with hearing loss have no known signs and risk factors. However the risk of hearing loss is higher if the baby has one or more risk factors that could induce hearing impairment. It is important for you to be sure that your baby has normal hearing. The first year of life is critical to the development of normal speech and language.

Newborn hearing screening is a simple method of testing if a baby's hearing is intact. It is done by sophisticated instruments that will not affect the baby. An audiologist can identify hearing loss in children of any age. This includes newborn and infant hearing testing and diagnostic hearing tests with young children.

## How will my baby's hearing test be done?

There are two types of hearing screening tests that may be used. Both tests are very safe and take only minutes to evaluate each ear. All babies require to sleep through their hearing screening.



**Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)** are measured with a miniature microphone to determine newborn's hearing status. It tests the outer hair cell function of the cochlea. Presence of emission is consistent with normal outer hair cell function. This test can detect any blockage in the outer ear canal, presence of any middle ear fluid & damage to the outer hair cells in the cochlea.

**Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR)** tests the infant's ability to hear soft sounds through miniature earphones. It assesses auditory function from eighth nerve through the auditory system. The stimulus is delivered to the infant's ear via small ear phones.

In both the tests any movements or crying from the infant can prevent the equipment from detecting the response. Therefore, it is important that the newborn is quiet or sleeping for the hearing screen.

## What if my baby does not pass the test?

There are many reasons your baby may not "pass" the first hearing test and requires a second screening. Perhaps your baby was too active or too wide-awake. It is important that you follow through with any recommendations made by your Audiologist, ENT and/or Pediatrician.



## Hearing, Speech and Language Milestones

### Some of the things most children will do at different ages:

#### Birth to 3 Months

- Quiets to familiar voices or words
- Reacts to loud sounds - baby startles, blinks, stops sucking, cries or wakes up
- Makes soft sounds when awake, baby gurgles



#### 3 to 6 Months

- Turns eyes or head toward sounds, voices, noise
- making toys, dog barking
- Starts to make speech-like sounds "ga," "ooh"
- Reacts to a change in your tone of voice



#### 6 to 9 Months

- Responds to own name and looks when called
- Understands simple words: "no," "bye-bye," "juice"
- Babbles, "da da da," "ma ma ma," "ba ba ba"



#### 9 to 12 Months

- Responds to both soft and loud sounds
- Repeats single words and imitates animal sounds
- Points to favorite toys or foods when asked



#### 12 to 18 Months

- Uses 10 or more words
- Follows simple spoken directions, "get the ball"
- Points to people, body parts or toys when asked
- "Bounces" to music



#### 18 to 24 Months

- Uses 20 or more words
- Combines two or more words: "more juice," " . . ."
- "what's that?"
- Uses many different consonant sounds at . . .
- beginnings of words: b, g, m
- Listens to simple stories and songs



#### 2 to 3 Years

- Uses two to three word sentences
- Follows two-step instructions, "get the ball and . . ."
- put it on the table"



*"Early Screening Means Early Detection"*