

## Newborn Hearing Screening “What to Expect”

Hearing loss is invisible and is the most common birth disorder in children. It affects as many as 12,000 babies born in the United States each year. In Mississippi, about 90 babies are born with or develop hearing loss each year.

Newborn hearing screening is available through every hospital in the state that delivers babies. The purpose of the hearing screening is to identify children with hearing loss at an early age so that proper follow-up and treatment can be recommended.

Undetected hearing loss can result in delays in speech and language development. This can also lead to difficulties in school and social life. Early detection and intervention can greatly improve a child's chance of leading a complete and productive life.

This brochure is designed to answer some of the questions you may have regarding newborn hearing screening and the importance of early identification of hearing loss in children.

If you have any questions regarding the hearing screening, recommended hearing testing, or interventions, please contact the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program at (800) 451-3903.

### How will my baby's hearing be screened?

Most of the hospitals in Mississippi use automated auditory brainstem response testing (AABR) or otoacoustic emissions testing (OAE) in their screening programs. Both tests are quick and painless and can be administered shortly after birth. The AABR uses sensors placed on the baby's head and an earphone over the ear. The OAE involves placing a soft probe gently into the ear canal. Hearing is measured automatically and the test takes only minutes to administer.

### What happens if my baby does not pass the hearing screening?

Sometimes the baby does not pass the screening because there is still fluid present in the ear. If your baby does not pass the screening after three separate attempts in the hospital, you will be referred for a complete hearing test conducted by a licensed audiologist.

### If my baby passes the hearing screening, do I need to worry about having his or her hearing evaluated later?

The results of the screening show how your baby is hearing at the time of the screening. Children who have a family history of childhood hearing loss, chronic illness, reoccurring ear infections, and other factors may be “at risk” for developing hearing loss after they leave the hospital. If your baby is “at risk” for hearing loss, you should have your baby's hearing evaluated every six months until he or she is three

years of age. Your physician can help you determine your baby's specific needs.

Sometimes the cause of late-onset hearing loss is unknown. It is also important to monitor your baby's speech and language development. Delays in speech or language can be the result of an undetected hearing loss.

### Milestones for language development

From birth to three months your baby should:

- Startle or jump when there is a sudden, loud sound
- Stir or awaken when someone talks or makes noise
- Recognize and be comforted by the sound of your voice

Between three and six months your baby should:

- Turn his/her eyes in the direction of an interesting sound
- Respond to your voice
- Turn in the direction of his/her name being called

Between six and twelve months your baby should:

- Understand such common words as “no” and “bye-bye”
- Use speech sounds to get and keep attention
- Imitate different speech sounds

## Resources on Hearing Loss in Children

Early Hearing Detection and Intervention  
Program in Mississippi (EHDI-M)/First Steps  
(800) 451-3903 or (601) 576-7427  
[www.HealthyMS.com/hearing](http://www.HealthyMS.com/hearing)

NCHAM-National Center for Hearing  
Assessment and Management  
(435) 797-3584  
[www.infanthearing.org](http://www.infanthearing.org)

Alexander Graham Bell Association  
for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
(202) 337-5220  
[www.agbell.org](http://www.agbell.org)

National Institute on Deafness and  
other Communicative Disorders  
(800) 241-1044  
[www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing](http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing)

Mississippi School for the Deaf  
(601) 984-8000 or (888) 673-3323  
[www.msdk12.ms.us](http://www.msdk12.ms.us)

Mississippi Deaf-Blind Program  
(601) 266-5135 or (800) 264-5135  
[www.usm.edu/msdb](http://www.usm.edu/msdb)

Mississippi Speech/Language and  
Hearing Association  
(800) 664-6742  
[www.mshausa.org](http://www.mshausa.org)

T.K. Martin Center for Technology  
and Disability  
(662) 325-1028  
[www.tkmartin.msstate.edu](http://www.tkmartin.msstate.edu)

Magnolia Speech School  
(601) 922-5530  
[www.magnoliaspeechschool.org](http://www.magnoliaspeechschool.org)

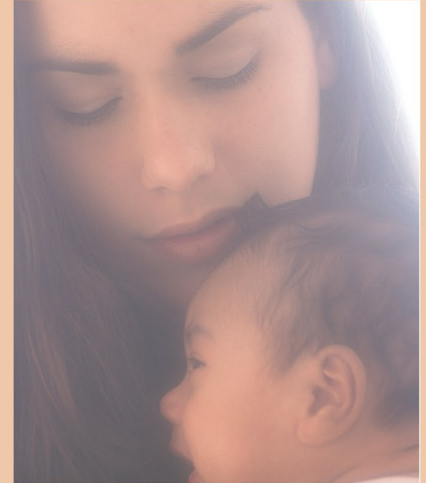


MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Early Hearing Detection and  
Intervention Program

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