

The Next Steps: Diagnostic Testing

It is important to identify hearing loss *early*. Language skills start to develop immediately after birth, even though babies do not usually talk until about one year of age.



Over 90% of babies with hearing loss are born to parents with normal hearing.

Hearing loss is not usually noticeable to the infant's parents or doctors.

If your baby does have hearing loss, it will make a **BIG** difference if you find out early so the right education and family support can be provided **BEFORE** he/she falls behind in language development.

Appropriate follow-up testing is the only way to find hearing loss early.

If a baby does not pass a **rescreen**, it means the baby should have a **diagnostic** hearing test right away.

What is the difference between a hearing screening and a diagnostic hearing test?

A *hearing screening* will only tell you there is the possibility of a hearing loss. Your baby did not pass the hearing screening, so a *diagnostic hearing test* needs to be done by a **pediatric** audiologist. This test will either tell you how much of a hearing loss your baby has, or if your baby's hearing seems normal at this time.

- A baby should have a diagnostic hearing test done no later than **3 months of age**, otherwise sedation may be needed.
- A diagnostic test must include:
 - Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) (including click, frequency specific (ASSR or tone burst) and bone conduction testing),
 - Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE), and
 - Tympanograms.
- If you or your doctor(s) do not understand the difference between a hearing screen and a diagnostic hearing test, please call 517-335-8878 for assistance.

When you schedule an appointment for a diagnostic test:

1. Please explain that your baby has had two screenings and needs a diagnostic appointment including the ABR and
2. Please explain you would like the appointment for no later than when your infant turns 3 months old.

Diagnostic Facilities near you:

- 1.
- 2.



Michigan Early Hearing Detection
and Intervention Program

For any questions, please contact Michelle Garcia,

EHDI Follow-Up Consultant: Phone: 517-335-8878 or email: GarciaM@michigan.gov

Children's Special Health Care Services (1-800-359-3722) offers financial assistance for hearing testing.