

Next steps for babies that refer:

1. Talk to your baby's doctor about the screening results at your first checkup.
2. Schedule follow-up testing with a hearing professional within two to three weeks of birth.

"I was sure my baby could hear because I saw him startle when the dog barked. It turns out that he could hear loud sounds, but couldn't hear me whisper. I'm so happy that we went back for the test."
~ A Caring Parent

Michigan Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program

We care about your baby's hearing and learning. The EHDI program provides assistance and education to hospitals, medical providers, and others. It supports families by connecting them to available resources and helping them get the care their baby needs.

For more information, please contact:
Michigan EHDI
P.O. Box 30195, Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-335-8955



Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

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PARENT INFORMATION

Newborn Hearing Screening



Did You Know?

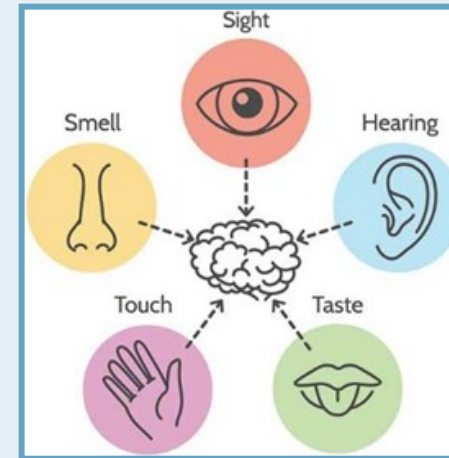
Hearing loss is invisible. No one can look at a newborn and know if the baby has hearing loss. The only way to know is through a hearing test.



Michigan Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

Babies learn about their world through the five senses.

Hearing, like all the senses, occurs in the brain. The ears are the pathways to the brain for sound.



Why do we screen newborns for hearing loss?

We need to know right away if sound is reaching your baby's brain. Missing any sounds (even soft ones), will change how your baby learns and how the brain grows.

Who has a hearing screen?

All newborns are required to have a hearing screen.



Where is the screening done?

Most of the time, the hearing screen is done before your baby leaves the hospital. If your baby was not born in a hospital, the hearing screen can be arranged by a midwife or other healthcare provider.



How is the hearing screening done?

There are two ways to screen hearing. Both tests are *quick, simple and safe*. It is helpful for your baby to be asleep or lying quietly during the test.

- **Automated Auditory Brainstem Response (A-ABR)** Patches are placed on the baby. Soft sounds are played using small earphones. The patches record brain waves related to hearing.
- **Otoacoustic Emission (OAE)** Soft tips are placed inside the baby's ears and sounds are played. A tiny echo from the inner ear is measured.

What does “pass” mean?

“Pass” most likely means that your baby’s hearing is normal. Your baby’s brain is receiving the sounds needed to learn and grow. This does NOT guarantee that hearing will always be normal. Talk to your doctor to see if your child is at risk for hearing to change. If you are [ever](#) worried about your baby’s hearing, ask to have hearing retested!

What does a “refer” mean?

“Refer” means your baby needs further testing. Your baby’s brain may not be receiving all the sounds from around them. If your baby does not pass the screening, you [must schedule another test in two to three weeks](#). Do not be alarmed, but DO NOT WAIT to find out if your baby is missing any sounds!

Learning Begins at Birth for All Babies

Have fun with your baby as he or she is growing. **Talk, Sing, Read, and Play** - use all five senses to help your baby’s brain grow and learn. Experiences during the first months and years of life build your child’s brain for later learning.

Checklist for speech and hearing development. Your baby’s hearing can change. Tell your doctor if your child has not met these suggested monthly goals. **Don’t wait!** Have your child’s hearing tested.

Birth to 2 months

- Quiet down when hearing a familiar voice.
- Jump or blink to loud sounds.
- Make vowel sounds like ohh, ahh.

2 to 4 months

- Turn eyes or head to search for a sound.
- Use sounds such as squeals, whimpers, chuckles.

4 to 6 months

- Turn head toward sound.
- Babble ba-ba, ma-ma, da-da.

6 to 9 months

- Imitate speech sounds of others.
- Understand no-no or bye-bye.
- Turn head toward soft sounds.
- Respond to name.

9 to 12 months

- Understand and follow simple directions.
- Correctly use ma-ma.
- Respond to singing or music.



Follow-up testing is very important. If your baby has a hearing loss, it is best to know early so help can start right away. Your baby’s brain needs to receive complete information.

Where to go for follow-up screening?

Most of the time, the hospital will schedule your baby’s next hearing screen. If this is not done, ask your doctor. You can also contact the MI Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program at 517-335-8955.



What if my insurance will not pay for hearing screens?

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of newborn hearing screening and follow-up testing. If you do not have insurance or cannot afford the cost of a retest, please contact MI Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program at 517-335-8955.

Test Results

Find out the hearing screen results before you leave the hospital. If your baby did not pass the screening, ask what to do next. Ask the hospital staff to write your baby’s test results here.

Your baby’s hearing test results

Baby’s Name: _____

Date: _____

Right Ear: PASS REFER

Left Ear: PASS REFER

If your baby did not pass the hearing test, the appointment below has been made for your baby’s next hearing test.

Date and Time: _____

Place: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please call if you need to reschedule.

Keep this paper.

Other professionals who are caring for your child may ask to see the results.

