

Have your baby's hearing checked by a neonatal hearing test

Of every 1,000 babies, one or two will be born with a hearing disability. If this is the case, finding out as early as possible and giving appropriate treatment is important for your baby's speech and mental development.

Hearing disabilities are difficult to notice from a baby's appearance or behavior, and we recommend that you have your baby's hearing checked by a neonatal hearing test as soon as they are born.

Q What sort of tests are there?

There are two different tests that both take only a little time and are safe to conduct.

One is the automated ABR test, which involves playing a quiet sound to your baby while they are asleep and measuring their brainwaves, and the other is OAE screening, which involves measuring the tiny sounds made by your baby's ears. Neither of these tests is painful, has any side effects, or uses any drugs.

The test result will be either Pass or Refer. In the latter case, your baby will need to have further tests.

Q Where can these tests be carried out?

These tests are usually carried out before you leave the hospital or clinic where your baby was born.

If your hospital or clinic cannot carry out either of the tests, they will write you a referral form, which you can use to have a test performed within one month of your baby's birth at an obstetrics and gynecology clinic equipped to carry it out.

Q Does a test cost anything?

You have to pay for a test yourself. Please ask the hospital or clinic where you are due to give birth for details. (XXX City offers a subsidy for the cost of the test. Please contact YYY for details.)

Q What should I do if the test result is "Refer"?

That doesn't automatically mean that your baby has a hearing problem.

The first thing to do is to visit a general hospital with an ENT department where your baby can have further tests. In that case, consult the hospital or clinic where your baby was first tested.

If the further tests show that there is a hearing problem, getting the right treatment early can help your baby's speech and communication development.

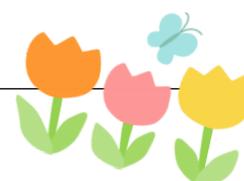
The result of the first test may not always be easy to determine because newborn babies may still have amniotic fluid in their ears, or be crying or moving around when the test is carried out. This is why further testing is important.

Q If the test result is "Pass," is everything fine?

It's important to keep an eye on the development of your baby's hearing as part of your daily life.

Passing this test means that at this point, there is no problem with your baby's hearing. It's possible that hearing problems may develop later, due to causes such as ear infections or mumps.

After your child is born, your municipal ZZZ will check their hearing as part of their regular health checkups. You should also use the "Hearing Development Checklist" overleaf to keep an eye on your child's development.



Can your baby hear what you're saying?

This checklist shows children's hearing and speech development at different ages.

If you can check off fewer than half the items at a particular age, or if you have any concerns about your child's hearing or speech development, please consult your regular doctor or a public health nurse at ZZZ.

Around 3 months old

- () Startled by loud noises
- () Woken by loud noises
- () Looks in the direction of sounds
- () Stops crying when spoken to
- () Smiles when played with
- () Makes sounds like "Ah" and "Ooh" when spoken to



Around 6 months old

- () Looks in the direction of sounds
- () Likes toys that make a noise
- () Distinguishes the voices of parents or other familiar people
- () Laughs out loud
- () Makes crowing sounds when amused
- () Makes sounds directed at other people



Around 9 months old

- () Looks round when their name is called
- () Enjoys playing peek-a-boo
- () Pulls their hands back or starts to cry if told "No! Don't do that!" in an angry voice
- () Makes sounds at their toys
- () Makes sounds like "Ma," "Pa," and "Ba"
- () Makes sounds like "Cha" and "Dada"



Around 12 months old

- () Understands words like "Give it to me," "Bedtime" and "Come here"
- () Responds to someone saying "Bye-bye"
- () Tries to imitate what adults are saying
- () Babbles meaninglessly but freely
- () Able to say one or two meaningful words (e.g. "Yum" for food or "Mama" for mother)
- () Repeats some words back to adults



About 18 months old

- () Likes having picture books read to them
- () Points to things they recognize in picture books
- () Understands a few simple instructions (e.g. "Hold this book," "Put this trash in the bin")
- () Able to use one or two meaningful words
- () Able to use three or more meaningful words
- () Says the names of things they recognize in picture books



Speech development varies between individuals, so you should take your child for their health checkups and use the Hearing Development Checklist regularly.